Tanong ng Bayan | A/4
Singil sa kuryente, dapat bang tasan?
CELLPHONE KADA ARAW, CELLPHONE KADA LIBUSOG! Text 291 0 save!
■ Across / A17
Vigilantes kill 5 in one day in Davao City
Closing Pacita Abad's circle of wanderlust
■ Business / B1
Gov't lowers '05 deficit target to P177B
■ Entertainment
'Denmark idol' is a Filipino

Christian movement urges men to be wild at heart

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Reds target big loggers but continue 'tax' take

Monday, January 24, 2005 • 40 pages / vol. 29 / no. 47
www.inq7.net

Mike to Jamby: Shut up

DEFENSIVE Senator does not have much high ground

DENR chief says Madrigals into logging

By Tonnie Dreyas and Ronnel Arabe
PDI Central Luzon Desk
and Marissa Bondoc

HITTING back at opposition Sen. Jamby Madrigal, a critic of the government drive against illegal loggers, Environment Secretary Michael Defensor said the Madrigals had operated timber concessions in landslide-hit Quezon and Quezon and that the senator herself owned two mining companies.

"[Madrigal] needs to explain how big wants family's logging concessions in Aurora and Quezon," Defensor told reporters in Tacloban City yesterday.

He revealed the Madrigals' holdings in logging and mining firms following the senator's revelation that the government's anti-illegal logging campaign had spared big-time timber poachers.

Madrigal urged Malacañang's Anti-Illegal Logging Task Force on Saturday to go beyond filing charges against town officials in Quezon and instead run after big-time loggers who allegedly mask their illegal operations with timber licenses and agreements.

"I hope she'll stop criticizing and instead help us in our campaign," Defensor said at a press briefing. "It's easy to criticize but those people have yet to contribute to the campaign one bit," he said.

Madrigal's media relations officer Gen Hizon, said the senator would answer Defensor's allegations in a privilege speech today.

PRIORITIES Will answer the gov in privilege speech today

Administration needs allies for survival

By Ariando Deveraldo

THE FOURTH anniversary of the ouster of President Macapagal-Arroyo on Jan. 21, 2001, through people power hasn't created a ripple. It was, in fact, a non-event even while it and many were invited.

Since the world was shrouded by the first 'People Power Revolution' in the Philippines in February 1986, the passage last week of John II has been marked by the lowest level of public enthusiasm.

Well, another failed mass civil approach one more month, the 19th anniversary of John I, the event is unlikely to generate the nostalgic enthusiasm it had created during the past two decades.

The event has ceased to be a mobilizing element in Philippine politics, either to depose an unpopular political leadership or to launch programs of political and social reforms.

Last week, Mr. devices voted down the election of John II by calling on the media to call the event "mass commemoration" instead of the government's.

The meeting indicated that the Presidency had come around to the view that an

ANALYSIS

FESTIVAL FLURRY Members of the Tribu Bukidnon show off their dancing prowess as they debuted their tribe during the Dinagyang Festival's street performances in Iloilo City yesterday.

Army officer sacked for order to kill Abra mayor

By Dinnah V. Esguerra and Aretha Kim Poloyoc
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

An army officer has been sacked for allegedly ordering two soldiers to assassinate an Abra town mayor supposedly on the behest of the provincial governor, a political rival of the mayor.

The two soldiers said they were offered P500,000 each to kill Lagayan Mayor Cecilio Jean and his family but they refused.

In army statement yesterday, Col. Noel Mizdraj, commanding officer of the 41st Infantry Battalion based in Lagangilang, Abra, had been stripped of his command for giving "an illegal order" and placed under restrictive pending an investigation.

It said Mizdraj had ordered the two soldiers "to liquidate the mayor which the duo did not carry out."

Mizdraj told the Inquirer he would answer the accusations against him at the proper time.

Abra Gov. Vicente Valera also refused to a press conference the allegation linking him to the supposed plot against the mayor.

The two soldiers who made the allegation to separate affidavits last month were identified in the army statement as Corporals Avenue Ronquera and Eduardo Bravo Lopez.

They refused to give comment.

On Dec. 22, five days after an

New US spy arm trains sights on Philippines

WASHINGTON – The US defense department has created a new espionage unit to find and focus on foreign countries and an early planning document cited the Philippines as being one of them, The Washington Post reported on Sunday.

The creation of the new group, which has operated in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as other undisclosed locations, would circumvent US law to give Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld wide authority over spy operations abroad, the Post said.

Citing Pentagon documents and interviews with participants, the Post said Rumsfeld created the organization – called the Strategic Support Branch – to end "over-total dependence" on the Central Intelligence Agency for human intelligence.

An early planning memorandum to Rumsfeld from the chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Richard Myers, said the focus of the initiative was on "emerging target countries such as Somalia, Yemen, Indonesia, the Philippines and Georgia," according to the Post.

The Pentagon has denied the report.

Defense department spokesperson Lieutenant Colonel Barry Venable said in a statement "There is no unit that is directly reportable to the secretary of defense for clandestine operations as is described in the Washington Post article."

"Further, the department is not attempting to build resources to fit

THE Dr. 28ETT and its crew of a Germanopilot and four Filipinos and their guests take a break in the waters off Dubai, the United Arab Emirates, during a stopover in their world tour.

Historic amphibian plane flies for RP kids, tourism

By Tonnie Dreyas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—At least 19 countries and 29 destinations. That's how many planes a German pilot and his team of four Filipinos have visited in the first half of their world tour promoting Philippine tourism.

The flight, made on board a historical amphibian plane restored by South East Asian Airlines (Seair), took off in Amsterdam that ended the country's economic and to raise funds for Filipino children.

Since leaving the former American base in Pampanga to spend last year, the team—in between stops—managed to raise P3.6 million, which Seair donated to the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef).

Dr. Nicholas Alipui, Unicef country representative, said the initial proceeds of the tour would "make a difference in the lives of thousands of children in the Philippines whose schools will receive 100 book libraries, educational toys, well-trained teachers, and even toilets and clean water."

The team members—German Capt. Jens Dreiner, Seair co-founder, Capt. Joseph Bautista, Mechanical Eng. Pendo Bulalhi and Lorenzo Raven—returned here recently to spend time with their families and gear up for the last leg of the "Krajang-Kaya 2004 round the World Flight for Unicef."

They were joined by Capt. Rhea Sitoy, Seair director.

"The tour was originally scheduled to end in December 2004, but Seair decided to extend the trip in order to visit more destinations and generate more funds for Unicef," Dreiner said.

The flight was made possible by a concept Dr.28ETT aircraft designed and built in the 1950s by Seair's grandfather, the German aircraft pioneer Gauchas Dornier. The aircraft is now in Rochester, New York, being restored

PICTURES, A/2

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 2011

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

INITIAL PNP FINDINGS

Kalibo cop was 'delusional'

By Christine V. Esguerra

THE POLICEMAN behind the bloody Kalibo Ati-atihan festival shooting was suffering from "persecution delusion," initial findings by the Philippine National Police showed.

Director Asher Lomibao, Task Force Kalibo chief, said the shooting, he suspects, "was triggered by paranoia."

"He felt he was being persecuted, that's why he was [acting] particularly strong in policemen," Lomibao told reporters, noting that all the police casualties suffered gunshot wounds from the waist up. "He was shooting every cop in his path."

In contrast, most of the civilian casualties were hit by stray bullets in their extremities, the official said.

Quoting chief PNP psychiatrist Sup. Marjore Castaneda, Lomibao said Nov. 2 that Monday apparently had an "emotional breakdown," which explained his behavior during the rampage.

"It's obvious that the behavior was abnormal, that he was not in the right frame of mind," he said.

Police investigators and psychiatrists are looking into two factors that could have driven the policeman to go berserk.

First was Rivero's purported disappointment over the fact that he did not get promoted even if he was part of the team that arrested Rep. Exacto, allegedly the cop drug lord in the Visayas.

Lomibao said investigators learned of Rivero's gripe after interviewing his family and friends.

Second, he said, was not promotion because he failed a previous psychological exam.

A special promotion could not apply to him in connection with the Exacto arrest since there was no "risk of life" factor involved in that operation, Lomibao said.

Another reason being investigated by probers that could have driven Rivero to snap were the threats he'd been reportedly getting from Exacto's camp, the official said.

"He was reportedly receiving death threats to have him to abandon the case but he always refused," Lomibao said.

Two officers—SPO1 Fidel Almiro and PO1 James Emmanuel Laguna—are being investigated for allegedly trying to help Rivero into withdrawing from the case according to Lomibao.

Almiro was with Rivero when the police arrested Exacto in 2008, he said.

To avoid a repeat of the rampage, police have begun "stress management debriefing and counseling" for Kalibo's 30 policemen.

Some 70 of Aklan's provincial police force of 300 officers are scheduled to undergo mental psychiatric tests based on the recommendation of their superiors, Lomibao said.

"These are the officers with emotional problems. Like those guilty of abusive characteristics," he said. "But it doesn't mean that they have mental problems."

Double-time, Senate vows budget by February

By Christine O. Avendaño

THE SENATE will work double time this week in order to have the proposed P997.4-billion budget for 2009 approved by Feb. 4.

Senate President Pimentel Enrile yesterday said senators would pursue their earlier agreement to a recess but work to get the 2009 proposed budget on the floor by Wednesday with Sen. Manuel Villar Jr. expected to sponsor the finance committee's report on the budget.

To meet the Feb. 4 deadline, the Senate will hold morning and afternoon sessions starting on Wednesday as well as sessions on Thursdays and Fridays.

The government is presently working under a reenacted budget, the second time this happened under the Arroyo administration.

The nine-member finance committee, meanwhile, was busy preparing for the budget deliberations and had assigned certain members to scrutinize the budgets of various departments and agencies.

These include the Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of Interior and Local Government, and the Philippine National Police.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said the minority would focus on "throwing out billion-peso pork barrel" funds in the deliberations, among other things.

"We will also ask how the intelligence funds have been used in relation to present appropriations," Pimentel said in a phone interview.

The minority was also interested in the National Power Corp., which only last week came under fire from Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago who claimed that the state-owned power firm had debts amounting to P1.3 trillion.

"[Their expenditures] supposedly is more than half of the deficit and foreign debt," Pimentel said.

Santiago had questioned Napocor's P1.3-trillion debt, the bulk of which came from government guarantees to independent power producers during the power crisis in the '90s.

The Enrile senator had threatened to shelve the budget of the Department of Energy, which supervises Napocor, for what she claimed were continued anomalies plaguing the firm and other state energy corporations.

Some Sen. Ralph Recto agreed on the need for senators to focus on subsidy-dependent government corporations "whose losses supposedly comprise."

Recto said Napocor led the list of "projected losers in 2009" with a forecasted net loss of P69.63 billion.

But he said that Napocor may end up closing the year with a lower net loss "depending on its ability to weigh rate increases from the Energy Regulatory Commission."

Recto said Napocor was among 23 government-owned corporations and companies that the Department of Budget and Management projected would post a combined net loss of P102.7 billion this year.

Poe a 'good choice' but honor 'too late'

THE BELATED naming of the late movie idol and presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. as the Filipino of the Year 2004 was a "good choice," opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said yesterday, but the honor came "too late."

Pimentel conceded that the honoree's choice of the name is a surprise to him.

Speaking candidly in a phone interview, the Senate minority leader couldn't help but note that the newspaper had "lost [Poe's] vital link" to the popularity known by his initials FPJ, during the election campaign and the subsequent canvassing of votes in Congress last year.

But, "it's better late than never," he said.

Poe, who lost to President Macapagal-Arroyo but insisted that he had been cheated, died on Dec. 14, 2004, after suffering a massive stroke.

The honoree joined Poe as the Filipino of the Year 2004 for having made the most impact on the news that year.

Randy Nonoy and supporters marked the 40th day after his death last Saturday.

(Christine O. Avendaño)

'NICE COSTUME'
President Macapagal-Arroyo meets participants in the Dinagyang festival in Iloilo City yesterday. The President attended Mass and then took part in the festivities honoring the Sto. Niño.

Japan won't budge on policy

By TJ Burgonio

TOKYO/MANILA government has rejected some requests for a moratorium on the implementation of its new immigration policy, which would drastically cut the number of Filipino entertainers entering Japan starting this year.

Hisashi Ogawa, spokesperson of the Japanese Embassy in Manila, said immigration authorities in the country were just applying the law, implementing rules drafted before enforcing the policy.

"It could be this month or next month. Or I think it should be closely by March," he said in an interview.

Under Japan's tougher immigration policy, foreign entertainers intending to work there must undergo a two-year training in music or dance in a foreign educational institution, or have two years experience outside Japan, as a requirement for the issuance of visas.

Once in place, the measure is expected to dramatically cut the number of visas issued to aspiring entertainers every year from 80,000 to 8,000, and cut off a major source of foreign exchange remittances for Filipinos.

Over 100,000 Filipinos are present, by working as entertainers in Japan.

Previously, Japan only required some season or present a government certificate of their skills or degree or diploma. This was scrapped by the new policy.

Ogawa wondered why Filipinos should find it hard to comply with either a two-year training or two years experience in music or dance, saying that entertainers had complied with them in the past.

Those two requirements had been imposed on Filipino entertainers until Tokyo allowed Manila to issue certifications of its entertainers' skills in the form of artist record books (ARB) in 1994, he said.

Japanese Embassy officials said the goal of the new policy was "to ensure" more Filipinos received from falling into prostitution or ending up as "hostesses" in Japan's red light districts.

"I could say that more than 90 percent (of the Filipino women) are forced to become hostesses in the nightclubs or in the bars. That's the reality. Nobody can deny that fact," Ogawa said.

Japan's more stringent immigration policy reportedly stemmed from an inclusion by the US State Department in the watchlist of human trafficking last year.

The new policy intends to address the human trafficking problem, Ogawa said. Japan decided to amend its immigration policy only now, Ogawa said. "Based on our investigation, the situation is very terrible."

"If you know the actual situation, we will sacrifice those girls for another (generation) three years if we have a moratorium. I really want to ask the Filipinos: 'Hey, do you want to sacrifice those Filipinos for your own benefit?'" Ogawa said.

"We are talking about, how to save those girls. Why do you have to insist?"

Once the policy is implemented, the Japanese government will be taking a more direct hand in screening the legitimate artists according to its own rules.

Solon pushes FVR for UN secretary general

AN ADMINISTRATION congressman has called for the nomination of former President Fidel V. Ramos to be the next secretary general of the United Nations.

Rep. Constantino Jaraula Chiong Cajigas do Oro City) has filed House Resolution No. 102 recommending Ramos as the replacement for current UN Secretary Kofi Annan who is set to step down next year.

Jaraula noted that it was an Asian candidate's turn to occupy the post and Ramos was "more than qualified for the position."

Jaraula said Ramos had "gained international popularity and recognition for his continuing dedication to world peace and solidarity."

The last Asian Catholic Filipino was the late Filipino to occupy a top seat at the UN when he served as president of the General Assembly in the late '80s.

"It will do great honor to the republic and it will do great service to the international community if (either) former President Ramos was absolutely chosen as secretary general of the UN," Jaraula said.

In his resolution, Jaraula urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to direct Foreign Secretary Alberto G. Romulo and Philippine Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Lauro Baja, to take the steps necessary to ensure Ramos' candidacy.

In a brief interview, however, Jaraula said he had not talked to Ramos about his proposal. — Cecille Pablo

SUERTRES 5 4 3 (Second draw) EZ2 2 5
SUPERLOTTO 6/49 3 43 39 21 26 25
SWEEPSTAKES 1 2 1 2 5 2 C
P100,000.00

METRO
E-mail: metro@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Ester G. Ogsimundo ■ Assistant Editor Conan B. Bilbao

NCRPO to boost visibility

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

ROMPESTO, you will see more policemen on the streets.

The National Capital Region Police Office is increasing the number of police checkpoints from 21 to 37 on one checkpoint for every police station in the metropolis.

Checkpoints will be manned 24 hours a day, with policemen ordered to be more alert from midnight to 6 a.m., when most crimes are perpetrated, the NCRPO said in a statement distributed on the five police districts.

Currently it is observed that some checkpoints are set up from midnight to 6 a.m. only.

Aside from increasing the number of checkpoints, the NCRPO ordered the deployment of more police patrols.

More police patrols

The number of visibility patrols all over the metropolis shall be increased from 41 to 68, NCRPO Director Avelino Razon Jr. said.

There are aside from the 11 stationary checkpoints which have been put up in strategic areas in Metro Manila.

Razon told the heads of the five police districts in the NCR to regularly inspect the deployment of their men to make sure they are not sleeping on the job.

There have been numerous reports and complaints about policemen sleeping while on duty, especially at night.

Razon encouraged citizens to report to the NCRPO any policeman whom they would see sleeping on the job.

Vendor shoots MMDA worker

By Irene C. Perez

THE HARD-HEADED sidewalk clearing operations of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) was met with violence Saturday night when a member of the agency was shot by an unidentified vendor of pirated video discs.

MMDA Clearing Operations Group head Roberto Esquivel said Gumersindo Bacilan, 35, was attacked along Aurora Boulevard in Cubao at about 9 p.m.

According to Esquivel, Bacilan, head of the MMDA's Task Force Cubao, suffered a wound in the lower part of his right eye inflicted by a .22-cal. slug.

The victim was rushed to the East Avenue Medical Center and was transferred to the Eye Injury Diagnostic Center in Quezon City.

He was declared out of danger but he would go blind, Esquivel, sporting dreads, said.

Bacilan, in a lawsuit, was the platoon leader of the MMDA clearing team posted in the area.

Reports said a man, posing as a pedestrian, walked up to Bacilan and shot him.

Esquivel said members of the clean's team identified the suspect as a vendor they apprehended around Christmas last year.

The suspect was reportedly selling pirated music and video newspaper discs in a pushcart and refused to stop off the sidewalk.

When Bacilan's clearing team approached him, he threatened the MMDA men that there would be trouble should they confiscate his goods.

"We should be alert," Esquivel said in Filipino.

The MMDA has 10 men guarding the area against illegal vendors. They have no police escort in back them up.

There were are around 10 metro open to make sure no illegal vendor could operate on the sidewalks.

Esquivel said fresh team was disarmed-agreed because the vendors know them by face while they did not know who or how many they were up against.

He said if any of their men felt threatened or feared for their safety they could resign.

The MMDA is coordinating with the General Police Office in regarding Bacilan's case.

Esquivel said they would file frustrated murder charges against the suspect once he is caught.

In 2000, sidewalk clearing results included 90MDA employ- ees in Armando Sanchez of Tondo, who was stabbed by an accused ballot vendor in Makati.

Also, vendor Eladio Tuazon was shot dead by SPO2 Antonio Pajeda after the former fired his gun at MMDA personnel.

Last year, vendor Reynaldo Garcia admitted that he burned an MMDA Organized Bus Route office in Baclaran with three incendiary components.

The MMDA controversial campaign has been the subject of protests by urban poor groups and vendors who blame MMDA chair Bayani Fernando for taking away their livelihood.

LLDA shakeup to make room for new chief's men

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE NEW head of the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) plans to bring in new employees to the agency, which may explain the termination of the contracts of 300 contractual employees.

"It's normal for a (new) GM (general manager) to bring his own men," LLDA General Manager Ed Manalo said in the phone.

Asked how many he was planning to bring in, Manalo said "less than 25 percent" of the contractual workforce of the agency.

In an interview, former LLDA chair Casimiro Ynares III also said the layoffs mean that he has brought in some of his men when he assumed the agency's top post in February last year.

The chairman of the removed and past LLDA administrations required what appears to be a cycle of firing and hiring of contractuals at the agency.

Most of those affected are janitorial laborers with a pay of about P6,000.

Five years or more

But Manalo assured contractual employees who have worked for five years that their contracts would be renewed.

He said, "(The contracts of) those who have been working here for five years or so would of course be renewed."

Manalo explained that "those are people who are doing 'regular' jobs in the agency."

"But those who have been with us for only three to four months, we would have to let their contracts expire," he said.

Manalo said he just needs, he would already have removed some of those contracts.

"We know people on station," he said.

On Friday, Manalo said his office would have completed reviewing contracts before Jan. 31. Before this day, he would have to refuse or reject contractual workers, he said.

In a memorandum dated Jan. 19, Manalo stated that "effective Jan. 31, all contractual employees, whose contracts have expired shall, in the meantime, not be required to report for work."

Jaywalkers face immediate arrest

FEET On wet Day, then the pink prison vest.

Police detaining violators during the first week of the implementation of the wet flag scheme, an official of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) said yesterday this they would soon be putting work on their campaign to keep pedestrians off roads.

Traffic Operations Center Executive Director Angelito Vergel de Dios said those pink prison vests would be handing up the street wet flag trucks that are constantly making the rounds of Metro Manila.

He said pedestrians who would insist on crossing or walking on roads would immediately be "jailed" inside the vans and detained on traffic-violator's alley.

Vergel de Dios said the scheme would last from 20 minutes to an hour.

According to him, there would be no need for a prison truck to accompany each wet flag truck since the latter had been proven effective in keeping people on sidewalks.

Vergel de Dios said, that since the project's implementation, 99 percent of the pedestrians have been kept off the roads.

The wet flag truck is a mobile unit bearing large white flags measuring seven by five feet.

MMDA aims periodically pour water on the flags to drive off, and to use wet, pedestrians from the road, especially in busy thorough- fares like Edsa and Commonwealth Avenue. — Irene C. Perez

Lapu-Lapu makes Luneta comeback

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE CEBUANO hero is rising again from the depths of controversy.

The controlling statue of Lapu-Lapu, the Mactan chieftain who crushed the ambitions of Ferdinand Magellan in the 16th century, would again stand tall in his heroic form on the sprawling Rizal Park.

"The Statue of the Sinicland of Freedom," a 20-foot statue of Lapu-Lapu (rather) by sculptor Juan Sajid Dumo, would the once more to the park some 500 meters behind the monument of national hero Jose Rizal.

This time though, a smaller base version would be erected to either pedestal to be a shining star at the Apolinario Castle, subsidy to also become as Mimosa Circle.

A statue made of resin was put up in February 2004 but was dismantled months later when strong winds and objections from the National Historical Institute—Chauvinistic to topple it.

"We received a letter (from the Department of Tourism) telling us to proceed with the installation of the final metal base statue," said Carlo Izuno, the sculptor's wife, who helps him manage his Mandaluyong City workshop.

The "Statue in Process" was signed by Tourism Secretary Ducano Alberto Lobregat.

Izuno said they aim to complete the erection of the bronze statue by the second week of February, at the latest.

Is Your MONTHLY PERIOD a MONTHLY PROBLEM?

BETTER LEIZENZI
HERBAL FOOD SUPPLEMENT

Leizenzi helps in regulating the body's sexual hormone production and relieve symptoms of menstrual disorders such as:

- pain & discomfort
- menstrual cramps
- irregular period
- menopausal syndrome

*Formerly Better Sleep Leizenzi

AVAILABLE AT MERCURY DRUG, WATSONS, BAWSON DRUG, SUBSIDENCE & OTHER LEADING DRUGSTORES
For more information call (02) 723-4378, (02) 721 4376, or Text (0918)934 9347

METROBRIEFS

Rizal Park cleanup

POLICE and social workers in Manila rounded up 140 men and women from the Rizal Park in a cleaning operation over the weekend. The operation was part of the city's "Oplan Linggo-Linggo," a social welfare program to keep vagrants, the homeless and petty criminals out of Manila's parks and streets. — Tarra V. Quismundo

Truck hits bike rider

RICO Pagalan, 23, of Pamplona Compound, Tondo, died at about 9 a.m. yesterday, when the bicycle he was riding hit by a 10-wheeler truck on the Del Pan Bridge in Port Area, Manila. Police said driver Lolito Bonado failed to see the victim. — Tarra V. Quismundo

Free breast screening

THE SWAROVSKI Cultral Foundation (SCF) with the Philippine Foundation for Breast Care and the Iloilo Club of Metro Intiges Foundation will be offering free breast diagnostic screening for women from poor families. Screening will be at the Breast Care Center at the East Avenue Medical Center in Quezon City. SCF was started by the initiative of Professor Peter Cortez and Lourdes Veneracion.

Plaridel clubhouse opens

MANILA PRESS Plaridel, an association of journalists, will open its new clubhouse today at 6:30 p.m. with Senate President Franklin Drilon and Manila Mayor Lito Atienza as guests of honor. The clubhouse, which will be open to the public, will be at the third floor of Traveler's Life Building, 138 Juan Luna Street, across the National Library.

R. Cuisia, 70

DR. FORBES R. Cuisia, who died Thursday at age 70, will be buried tomorrow at 2 p.m. at the Holy Cross Memorial Park in Quezon City. His body lies at Sunnyside Par on Araneta Avenue in Quezon City. Surviving him are his wife, Cleta, and children Fernando, Fernando, Rosario, Carlos Cruz and Elvira Zobel. Cuisia, a macroeconomist, at as taught at the UST College of Medicine.

Christian movement urges men to be wild …

Front page 1

sold 5.5 million copies in English and been translated into 16 languages, most recently Russian.

Eldredge believes many Christian men have become bored ("really nice guys") and invites them to rediscover passion by viewing their life's mission as having a battle to fight, an adventure to live and a beauty to treasure.

"The modern era has brought us immense conveniences but at what price. The human heart is desperate for something more than a quicker turning of popcorn," Eldredge says in a recent interview.

Eldredge calls on men to be prepared to take risks and rediscover their dreams that do not provide a specific route or final, for example, an adventure to live. Career, marriage and family become heroic quests rather than chains which bind.

He focuses on how men can become less passive and "engage" those around them, particularly their wives and children.

"The guy who sits in front of the television is disengaged. That man is a bad man. They (children) need engagement whether it is playing on the floor with your 1-year-old or tougher games when they are 15 (years old)," he says.

Eldredge says he has been astounded by the response to his book with enormous gathering steadily since the book was published in 2001 by Christian publisher Thomas Nelson.

Men have been flocking to retreats and becoming small groups to study it. Some are organized by Eldredge and his team, but many are just informally arranged by readers of the book.

"It has become something of a grass-roots wildfire," Eldredge says.

Braveheart sword

Jim Chase, an advertising copywriter from La Crescenta, California, has had a replica of the sword actor Mel Gibson used when he played legendary Scottish warrior William Wallace in "Braveheart" hanging above his desk since attending a Wild at Heart retreat with his father their last year.

"It is just a reminder that our sons are in battle every day. It can be just facing boredom and routine, but it is a battle," Chase says.

"Life isn't just about going to work and sitting in front of a computer and bringing in as much money as you can. We all have a story. God has written a story and we are meant to find our what the story is and live it," he adds.

He says, for example, that the book inspired him to coach his 11-year-old son to ride a motorcycle.

Eldredge, who is a retired counselor and worked for 15 years for Christian organizations Focus on the Family, says we are currently living in a "fatherless age" with many men having abandoned their children, if not physically then emotionally.

His own father was an alcoholic who at my young years when Eldredge was young became increasingly distant. Chase lost his father, whom he describes as "very cold," just a few months before he attended the retreat.

"A lot of what it brings out is how much you are impacted by your own father. What you model, be set for you and how God relates to us as the king/father," Chase says.

Eldredge says he uses characters such as Mel Gibson's warrior Wallace in "Braveheart" because the characters often embody men who are engaging their passions by fighting noble battles, rescuing women and finding adventure.

Christian critics

The movement has stirred controversy, attracting criticism from some Christian leaders who fear Eldredge may just be reverting to masculinity.

While some women have welcomed endorsements from their husbands, in the long term there are concerns about the impact on marriages.

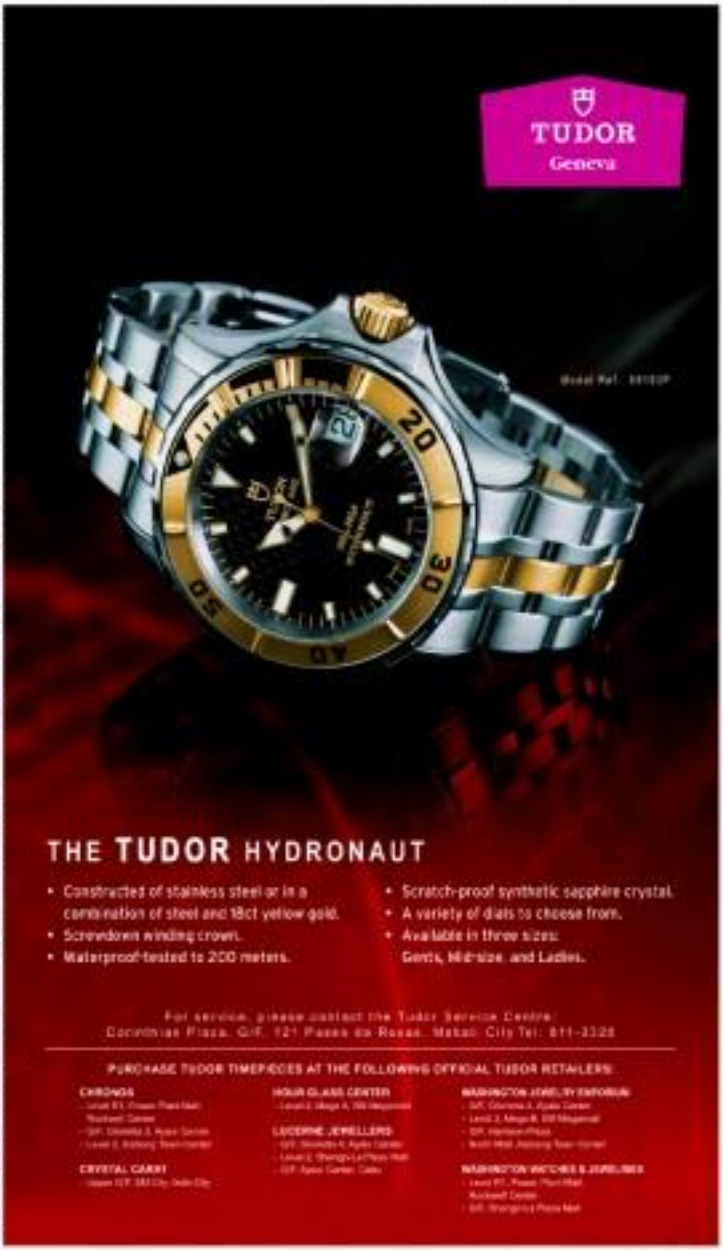
"The basic premise that men need a purpose in events but we lack models to guide us," Jennifer Ace of the Church for 20 years. He prescribes a mythological view of 1950s motherhood," says Elizabeth Clark, associate professor of youth, family and culture at Fuller Seminary in Pasadena, California.

"It is destructive (to marriages) in the long term," Clark said, adding that rescuing women as a "figurine richer than the personal image of God will hurt relationships over time.

Clark says Eldredge has tapped into an anger among middle aged white men who are dissatisfied with their lives and for whom depression had become a very serious problem.

Eldredge acknowledges the controversy will be judged based on the impact it will have on family life.

"The real test of this ("Wild at Heart") is does it make life better for women? Does it make life better for children? We have received letters from women who are immensely grateful. Marriages have been restored," Eldredge said. Reuters



LAST 2 DAYS!
UNBEATABLE OFFERS
UNPARALLELED DEALS
Anson
EMPORIUM
APPLIANCE
INSTALLMENT
SHOWDOWN
GLORIETTA
ACTIVITY CENTER
UNTIL JANUARY 25, 2005
FREE! ANSON GIFT CERTIFICATES
ON GREAT SELECTIONS
SAMSUNG • JVC • PANASONIC • PHILIPS • SANYO • CONSUL
KELVINATOR • LA GERMAIN • FISHER & PAYKEL • WHIRLPOOL • FUJIDENZO
KOPPEL • GE • ARISTON • ELBA • TCL • KOLIN • ATLAS • TOSHIBA
UNIVAP • POLYTRON • AMERICAN HOME • CARRIER • WEST BEND
AUDIONEX • CANON • GREENMAN COMPUTER HOTEL • TANDY • PRIMAC
FUJIDENZO • MAGIC SING • TECHNOWORLD HOTEL • DANIELSON
JBL FURNITURE, J & A HOTEL • JOHN HOTEL • IMPERIAL MOTOR SALES
BPI CREDIT CARDS • CITIBANK PAYLITE
UNIONBANK VISA • EQUITABLE CARD NETWORK
STANDARD CHARTERED • HSBC • DINERS
METROBANK MASTER & VISA • BANKARD MY DREAM JCB • AIG
PLUS! A CHANCE TO WIN ANY OF OUR 50
MAJOR AND/OR MINOR APPLIANCES
RAFFLE DAZZLE OF PRIZES
Anson
EMPORIUM
WE BEAT ANYBODY'S PRICE!
VISIT OUR BRANCHES AT :

Historic amphibian plane flies for RP kids, tourism

Front page 61

for a tour of the United States, South America and Southeast Asia.

The German-registered aircraft, Bernier said, had a reputation for being sturdy. During World War II, some 2,000 Do-24ATTs carried more than 11,000 people from the Allied to Orient.

Sturdy history

The restored aircraft has so far logged a total of 32,000 nautical miles without a hitch, he said.

Dumon received the aircraft from the Deutsch Museum in Munich, Germany in 2003. Filipino engineers led by Vice Head-Lt with three Pratt and Whitney engines and upgraded its wingspan by a ton larger than a Boeing 737's.

Now looking every bit like a luxury aircraft, it can carry 18 people, including five crew members.

The flight, which also previews the Philippines as a "must-see and friendly place," has been to duplex "Mr. Cambodia, Bangkok, Thailand, Colombo and Arnold in India, Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Muscat, Oman, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Karachi, Pakistan, Athens and Crete in Greece, Malmo in Piza and Lago di Como in Italy, Cairo, Egypt, Bratislava, Prague, Vienna, Austria, and Hamburg, Bremen, Berlin, Munich, Oberpfaffenhofen, Bundesgrenze, Diepholz/Bruchhausen, Friedrichshafen and Arnheim in Germany.

The tour also covered Biggin Hill and London in the United Kingdom; Shannon, Ireland; Iceland, Greenland, and Gander and Ottawa in Canada.

"In most of these destinations, the Do-24ATT made world headings," Dumon told the business in a message sent by e-mail.

Tourism campaign

Gloria said he was proud of what the tourism campaign for the Philippines had achieved.

"With its remarkable performance and dock-to-dock look, the Do-24ATT serves as a testament not only to German workmanship but also to the ingenuity and dedication that our Filipino crew has demonstrated for this project. We are proud to promote Philippine tourism using this amphibian aircraft," he said.

The tour, the first initiated by the private sector from Clark, was also sponsored by Premier Technologie and Bernier's father Mr. Yves Dumon provided local, ground handling services, hotel accommodations and refueled at several airport fees.

Wherever the aircraft went, Bernier carried the Philippine flag.

Large crowds gathered to watch the Do-24ATT as it docked or to make water landings, according to Bernier.

Gloria and Prince Talib of Brunei and Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, president of the Department of Civil Aviation in Dubai and chair of Emirates Airlines, were among those who welcomed the crew.

THIS time, the engines in Hamburg, Germany for the restored amphibian plane, on a museum piece, that is now once more

Grace and beauty

Crew members had their own stories about the historic tour.

Teo, the leader of the restoration project who trained to the Dutch public to smooth maintenance technology, said the team did not encounter any major problems during the entire four leg.

Pressed up for the next tour, he was hoping the team would be able to "raise more funds for future and extend our help to the youth."

Sabido, an aircraft specialist, said the most common problem encountered by the team were flat tires. "It was caused by landing in different destinations. But that kind of problem was easy to fix."

Bustamante, one of the pilots, was impressed with the Do-24ATT's graceful flying which does not allow us to hold up on the plane's nose, wings and propeller.

Bacani, who handles the administrative and financial aspects of the tour, enjoyed the plane. "Lahat ng ito noong nakaraan. It's so easy and it dances when it's up there. People who have seen it fly in the sky are really amazed," he said.

Army officer sacked for order to kill Abra mayor

Front page 61

ruling their assessments, the two were ambushed in Angeles. Jacob Mallari killed while Barcelona survived with four bullet wounds.

In separate affidavits, sound before they were ambushed, Rosquete and Barcelona alleged that they were summoned by Mislang to his office and offered P500,000 each as payment for the job.

Initially Mislang was to give P5,000 each to opt of Lanis and his family whom the colonel claimed were supporters of the communist New People's Army, the soldiers said.

Later, Mislang gave them an additional P30,000, but this time they said they refused.

Under pressure

"We know what we wanted as it do not was wrong," Barcelona said.

Barcelona said in his affidavit that he and Rosquete were told by Mislang that the P500,000 was to come from Ilocos.

Barcelona said, "It was Colonel Mislang who told us."

"The governor's commanding me (already), you haven't complied with the order," Mislang purportedly said in Filipino, according to Barcelona.

Ignoring the order, the two soldiers said they were ordered by the lieutenant's sergeant major to report what happened.

On watch list

Mayor Lanis has said he's been on the watch list of the Philippine National Police for allegedly maintaining a private army, according to a PNP intelligence report answer to the Senate before last year's elections.

He was also accused of involvement in the killing of persons identified with rival politicians.

The Senate trial on media killings has to refused to answer his media private.

But he sent a text message which read: "I would like to inform you that proper investigation is being done and I will answer the accusation in proper forum."

Videra denies

Videra, in a telephone interview, denied the allegations.

"Summon to a dialog (I ordered Mislang to kill them)? My relationship with Mislang is professional and we do not exist (like)," Videra said.

"I don't even know these people ... [The Lanis family] simply directed trial to talk to the governor's secretary."

They simply don't like to make peace so they are making up stories."

Mislang was relieved of his post effective Jan. 12. With a report from Tl-Inquirer Visayas Bureau and Northern Luzon Bureau

Filipinas warned against marrying Korean 'Moonies'

WANT to try your luck in South Korea? Well, go ahead. But don't be fooled by the easy promises of an arranged marriage with a "Moonie," Hilario, not married him, swears so.

Foreign affairs officials issued this warning to Filipino women planning to marry Koreans amid persistent reports that some of those who had entered into such arrangements with Korean members of the Unification Church, known as Moonies, ended up working in nightclubs.

Ambassador Alfredo Pilloneera told the Filipino women had been entering the Asian country through arranged marriages with Moonies as in mail-order brides.

The women, enchanted by promises of a comfortable life, end up working in nightclubs and bars in the country's red light districts under "miserable conditions," he said.

"Filipina women should be extra wary of, if not totally avoid, applying for arranged marriages in Koreans. They must be conscious not to fall prey to misrepresentations by guys who offer travel to Korea through marriage under the Korean Unification Church," Pilloneera said in a statement.

Recently, agents of the National Bureau of Investigation rounded up six Koreans and five Filipinas women allegedly running an illegal mail-order bride business in Barangka City using a recruitment agency as a front.

The term "Moonies" to refer to members of the Unification Church comes from the name of its founder, Sun Myung Moon.

The church often brings together newcomers who had never met before based on photos and personal information, and performs mass marriages of thousands of couples at least every year and then.

In 2002, it claimed to have at least 4.5 million followers worldwide.

Pilloneera advised Filipinas seeking employment in hostelries to follow government procedures, such as verifying employment contracts and documents with the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration. (Jacquelin Hicap)

Solon urges gov't to lobby Diet for 'comfort women'

A CONGRESSMAN has asked Malacañang to send a high-level delegation to Japan to lobby for the approval of the compensation bill for "comfort" women now pending before the Japanese Diet.

Rep. Antonio Cuenco Lagdameo (Cebu City), chair of the House committee on foreign affairs, yesterday said the compensation bill must be supported by the Philippine government.

The delegation, Cuenco said, should "start conferring with the Japanese parliament" about the passage of the bill, as most Filipino comfort women were now in the twilight of their lives.

"Or else, no Filipina comfort woman will be left standing to finally see this long and overdue justice being served," Cuenco said.

The bill, which seeks to provide compensation to women who were raped and forced to provide sexual services to the Japanese Imperial Army during World War II, was filed last year by the Democratic Party of Japan, Social Democratic Party, Japanese Communist Party and Independent lawmakers.

The comfort women, mostly Asians, were of various ethnic and national backgrounds. They included Filipinas, South Koreans and Chinese women.

The Japanese government had earlier rejected demands to compensate these women.

At the House, Cuenco has called for the approval of a resolution urging the Japanese parliament to take favorable action on the measure.

Cuenco said the Philippine government should start completing the list of Filipinas who were made comfort women during the war. (Carlito Pablo)

Women's group to raise funds

PEMEDAS

THE ALL Nations Women's Group will hold its annual grand ball on Jan. 27 at the Sigudan Ballroom of the Peninsula Hotel Manila in Makati City.

Proceeds of the affair will go to finance the AWWG scholarship program for poor but deserving students to Siem Manila. Members of the diplomatic corps and other friends of AWWG have been invited to the affair.

A special dance number will be performed by AWWG members. Music will be provided by the Gloria Gamonarin Band. The affair will start at 7 p.m.

Heroic chair is Dina Pesudas, AWWG president; co-chairs are Lolita Morpuri, Lily Aclan, Villa Izquierdo de Unia, Arlene Jacob and the AWWG directors.

The women's group promotes international fellowship and goodwill by developing among its members the ability to understand and appreciate the functions/cultures of peoples of different races, religions and political beliefs.

Reservations may be made by calling Penny Dotinga at 523-6521/3 or 525-6005, Dina Pesudas at 658-0300, or Lolita Morpuri at 809-2202.

New US spy arm trains sights on Philippines

Homepage A6

desired activities, as is suggested in this article," DIGSA said.

The Strategic Support Branch, which has been operating for two years, deploys teams of case officers, linguists, interrogators and technical specialists with special operations forces, according to the Post.

The Post did not say if the governments of the countries where the new espionage group was said to be operating were aware of its activities.

Neither did it say why the Philippines would be a focus of the group.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has strongly backed President George W. Bush's war on terror while hosting the communist-led National Democratic Front and the Moro People's Army as well as Moro separatist guerrillas.

The United States has placed the NDF, the MPA and the Moro extremist group Abu Sayyaf on its blacklist.

Spy satellites

It has also deployed American special forces units on Mindanao to train local troops in fighting the Abu Sayyaf and help locate the shadow group, using spies satellites and unmanned surveillance planes.

Quoting a defense department memo, the Washington Post said the Pentagon may recruit foreign spies that include "nonviolent Islamist" whose links to the US government would be embarrassing if disclosed.

The newspaper said the department's espionage activities included missions in both friendly and unfriendly states where conventional wars may be fought or unlikely. Those activities traditionally fall to the CIA's Directorate of Operations, it said.

The Strategic Support Branch was established with "supplemental" funds and without explicit authority from the US Congress, the newspaper reported, quoting unnamed Pentagon officials.

Penetrating al-Qaida

Rumsfeld's efforts are aimed at giving combat forces more information about their immediate enemy and to penetrate organizations such as al-Qaida, the newspaper reported.

The Post said the defense secretary also was seeking greater independence on intelligence deployments and agencies are placed under a newly created position of national intelligence director, an office approved by Congress last year.

It said Lt. Gen. William Boykin, deputy undersecretary for intelligence, acknowledged Rumsfeld intends to direct some missions previously undertaken by the CIA.

Discarding old thinking

The newspaper also quoted Assistant Defense Secretary Thomas O'Connell, who oversees special operations policy as saying Rumsfeld discarded the "lubricated way of thinking" and "risk-averse mentality" of previous Pentagon officials.

Some members of a still unnamed unit which looked last year into the alleged failure of American intelligence bodies to foresee the 9/11 attacks had decried the inadequacy of US human intelligence to read top off terror threats.

The Post said the new group was designed to operate under the defense secretary's direct control.

It said the new group was intended to boost the capabilities of the military's special forces operations by arming them with skills to establish local spy networks and thereby access national intelligence databases. Reuters, AFP

ALI MACELLE

Bridge program: Abad to decide after next test

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

DECISION: Secretary Florencio Abad has set the stranded going a categorical statement on the fate of the controversial high school "bridge program," saying he wanted to see results first.

"It's still on, but we'll evaluate it first," Abad said last week, when asked if he would continue the predecessor's key reform program next school year.

Abad said he wanted to see if the students enrolled in the bridge program would be significantly better in an upcoming English, science and math test than those currently occupying their seats in high school.

"If the difference (in their test scores) is not that much, we should reconsider (it). So you can't say that prematurely," the secretary said.

Undersecretary Jesus Miguel Luz Said said the next test would be conducted in February.

Refresher course

A brainchild of former Education Secretary Raul Roco, the bridge program is an added year between elementary and high school to serve as a "refresher course" for the three basic subjects of English, math and science before increasing freshmen could proceed to the regular four-year public high school curriculum.

If the program is discontinued, at least 226,968 students currently enrolled in the program would be behind their peers one full year.

Its fiscal impact on the program would be P1.5 billion for the 2004-2005 batch of public school graduates despite strong opposition from parents and teachers who complained of the additional burden an added year of high school would bring.

But Dr. Rene Azurin, a consultant who's 90 percent of the 1.4-million incoming freshmen flunked the High School Readiness Test. Those who failed the HSRT were supposedly to take the bridge program.

Upon Mr. Abad's request, Undersecretary Jose Rene Almendras is now reviewing the bridge program.

Mr. Abad also said he was not in favor of "forcing" students to take the bridge program.

Abad, who took over the DepEd last September, Abad said he would continue the program because he also believed in it.

In a related development, Abad said parents and community leaders should have a greater say in how the public schools are run.

Greater say

He said the DepEd was working on guidelines that would give parents, principals, teachers and even local civic groups a major role in decision-making in the local school boards, a task that at present falls on the mayors.

Abad has adopted "Schools First" as the policy battle cry.

"Schools First' means making the stakeholders including the parents and local authorities responsible for our schools. It means moving resources and authority down to the local level so that they could be accountable for the results," he said.

The parent setup has local school boards headed by the mayors and other city or municipal officials. The school principal and a teachers' representative also sit on the board.

The local boards decide how to spend the money or other kinds of assistance funds and what projects to undertake for the school.

Each school has its Parent-Teachers-Community Association (PTCAs) that are independent of the school principal and the school board.

More assertive

But the PTCAs do not have any say in the running of the schools.

"We want the PTCAs to be more assertive," said Abad.

He said he wanted to see the local government executive, principals, teachers, parents and even local NGOs as part of the local school boards.

He mentioned the principal as the chief executive officer in a school.

"We're studying how much power we can give them," Abad said. "But decision-making is how much power we can grant the principals, the school boards and our division superintendents."

DOH: No to condoms as contraceptives

HEALTH officials said Sunday they would not endorse the use of condoms to stem the country's ballooning population.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said in a statement that "we don't promote it as a regular type of contraception," despite condoms' known effectiveness in preventing the spread of sexually-transmitted diseases like HIV/AIDS.

The Department of Health, which coordinates the country's population control program, limits itself to promoting married couples with certain ends, namely promoting "natural family planning" without the use of contraceptives.

Dayrit said that the government's population control program was separate from its AIDS prevention program, which acknowledges that condoms prevent the spread of the condition, while mostly leaving the distribution of condoms to nongovernmental organizations.

A total of 2,276 people in the Philippines are confirmed to have been infected with AIDS but experts warn that the actual figure could be much higher.

The country, with a population of 84 million, has a population growth rate of 2.3 percent, one of the highest in the world.

President Macapagal-Arroyo said last year that she intended to bring the rate down to 1.9 percent but did not explain how she would be done. AFP

Asean tourism meet focuses on tsunami

A PHILIPPINE delegation led by Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano is in Langkawi, Malaysia, for the 2005 Asean Tourism Forum.

This year's meeting intends to challenge tourism industry professionals to come to consider progressive cutting-edge ideas to capitalize on travel opportunities and meet challenges arising from the tsunami tragedy that hit the region.

In line with this, the Philippine delegation will push for the approval of a joint statement appealing to countries to refrain from issuing travel advisories on humanitarian affected by the tragedy.

It said countries need to issue travel advisories, Dan Chow should only carry the actual extent and limits of the damage, as well as declare that travel to unaffected regions remains safe and normal, the statement said.

During the forum, Durano will give a briefing on the Philippine tourism industry including the directions to be taken that you such as introducing the diversification of tourism products.—Chris Rivera, Japan and Bobbit Jones

Century Communities Corporation in partnership with Manila Jockey Club, Inc. proudly present:

Street of Dreams®

CANYON RANCH

SEE THE DREAM | FEEL THE DREAM | LIVE THE DREAM

Featuring stunning brand-new custom homes, used fresh air and lush greenery, breathtaking views from the elevated landscape, a viewing deck and a Visitor's Center.

A first-class gated residential community in Carmona with extensive Caribbean-inspired house and lot packages for as low as P9,999 a month.

CLOSE TO THE CITY

CLOSE TO NATURE

CLOSE TO YOUR HEART

EXPERIENCE THE STREET OF DREAMS
HOUSE AND LOT PACKAGES STARTING FROM P9,999 A MONTH
CANYON RANCH PROJECT SITE

For inquiries, please call:
818.9025 • 893.7050
www.centurioncorp.com.ph

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, January 24, 2005
3rd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Heb 9:15,24-28
Gospel: Mark 3:22-30

Commentary

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

GENERAL LAW AND PROFESSIONS—Bar of candidates—The oath of candidates for admission to the Bar under Rule 138 of the Rules of Court is unexceptionable and, since administrable as a matter of right. "Special rules" are not in the exercise of judicial discretion." Under the circumstances of this case, petitioner failed to timely show that an appeal to the Office of the President was not the plain, speedy and adequate remedy, which would justify judicial intervention. Well-settled is the rule that a petition for certiorari will not be given due course where there is another, plain, speedy and adequate remedy in the ordinary course of law. Equally settled is the rule that certiorari cannot be used as a substitute for an appeal, especially if the latter remedy is lost through fault or negligence of the petitioner. Certiorari is not a substitute for a lost appeal. Moreover, certiorari will not lie to correct errors of jurisdiction, or to correct abuse of discretion amounting to such errors of jurisdiction. As a condition for the filing of a petition for certiorari, Section 1 of Rule 65 of the Rules of Court additionally requires that "no appeal, nor any plain, speedy and adequate remedy in the ordinary course of law" must be available. It is, thus, clear that the availability of the right of appeal precludes recourse to the special civil action for certiorari. (Quintos-Deles vs. Commission on Elections, Justice Chico-Nazario, Second Division, Resolution en Deuilos, G.R. 159 R.R. Nos.

SPORTS

Editor Teddyboy S. Melendres

Phone Pals sweep past T'Chargers, gain finals

By June Navarro

GAME HIGHLIGHTS (Results Column)
1 hrs.m.—Sun Magnolia vs Barangay Ginebra

JIMMY Alapag and Rony Ramos drove the final nail on Shell's coffin as Talk N Text advanced to the Asian Marvelot 10th Philippine Cup Finals with a hard-earned 102-96 overtime win last night at the Araneta Coliseum.

Alapag unloaded six points in the extension and Ramos had five to take the fight out of the Turbo Chargers and allow the Phone Pals to sweep the best-of-five semifinal series.

Although hounded by Ronjay Buyo through out, the cat-quick Alapag managed to escape with 22 points while Ramos and Nelu Bolick added 16 points each for the Phone Pals, who barely missed the injured Willie Miller.

The defending champion Phone Pals reached their third Finals stint in the last six conferences, getting a chance for a bash to back All-Filipino championship against the winner of the San Miguel Beer-Barangay Ginebra showdown.

No team in league history has won the AFC crown for two straight seasons in the last 19 years. Great Taste last pulled the trick in 1984-85.

"This just going to be unexpected if we repeat what Great Taste did. I was on that team when it happened," said Talk N Text coach Joel Banal, whose Phone Pals won the 2003 AFC title, the first for the Money 'n' Noughts-named franchise since joining the league in 1996.

Miller, the league's top scorer, suited up for the Phone Pals but the 2003 MVP was forced to exit a sprained left ankle he suffered in Game 2.

It snapped Miller's streak of 166 games played, the second longest active run after Rheden Aquino's 212-consecutive-outings.

"It doesn't matter. What's important is that we're here in the Finals," said Miller.

The Turbo Chargers simply collapsed for the second time after the Phone Pals forced the game into overtime despite falling behind by seven-to-eight points in the final 51 seconds.

With the Turbo Chargers ahead, 86-82, Mark Telan followed up a miss and Dondel Nelson sank both his charities after a Tony Dela Cruz turnover with 11 ticks left to send the game into overtime.

Seizing it, coach Lee Austria and the Turbo Chargers had victory within their grasp after Chris Jackson drilled a three pointer with 17 seconds left but Vic Pablo knocked in an overtime sending jumper with three ticks left.

Shell then failed to score in overtime, becoming the first PBA team to get shut out in the extension.

SHELL'S Tony dela Cruz grabs the rebound off Talk 'N Text's Victor Pablo in their semifinal bout last night. The Phone Pals won.

The scores
FIRST GAME
TALK 'N TEXT
(96)—Alapag 22, Ramos 16, Bolick 16, Telan 13, Dela Cruz 9, Cahilig 8, Pablo 8, Ildefonso 7, Cabrera 5, Ravena 0.
SHELL (96)—Cruz 22, Alvarez 16, Reid 13, Ferrer 12, Buyo 10, Jackson 11, Cruz 3, Cabagnot 0, Dillo 3, Ilo, Mallo 1, Yap 1, Jacobson 2.
Quarters: 17-14, 43-43, (71-71, 86-86, 102-96)

SPORTS TV
Compiled by L. Mangosa

TENNIS: 2005 Australian Open Fourth Round (if a.m. and 4:30 p.m.) (1 • 18 p.m.); Day 8 Highlights; 8 p.m. - ESPN Sports - Grand Slam tennis action continues in the fourth round.
AMERICAN FOOTBALL: NFL - AFC Championship; 7:30 a.m. (• 8:30 p.m.); ESPN - Find out who makes it to the Super Bowl in the AFC Championship game.
BASKETBALL: NBA - Nets vs Suns; 9 a.m. (• 8 p.m.); Solar Sports - New Jersey travels to the Valley of the Sun to take on Phoenix.
COLLEGE: NCAA - Pittsburgh vs UConn; 8 a.m.; Maryland vs Wisconsin; 1 p.m.; Wake Forest vs Illinois; 3 p.m.; ESPN - Witness the best college hoopsters in action.
Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

Congratulations Winners!
Weekly Winners
Monthly Winners
Antonio Francisco P 100,000.00
Gustavene Subdivision
Cabatangan, Zamboanga City
Wag magpaloko, kumilit ng Fetron Union at Rev-X at baka kayo na ang susunod na manalo!

NBC PANASONIC

Tribu Sugbu thwarts Spring Oil for title

CEBU CITY—The Sligya-Stiller-backed Tribu Sugbu dropped a 29-11 bomb in the third quarter and then held off Spring Cooking Oil-supported Laguna Spring, 89-79, to win the NBC Panasonic pre-season basketball crown Saturday at the Cebu Coliseum here.

With the position crowd cheering them on, Lito Gilbuena's 3-foot sniper for a 45-38 spring lead and surged ahead, 62-35, going into the fourth quarter.

In the opener, Mayor Freddie Tinga's forward-looking opponent over the leaders of Perdis Manresa, 78-76, to finish third in the short series sponsored by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Mulino, Nissin's Spring and Cebu's JJ Square Discovery Mall.

Marvin Mercado, Jhun Mel Pagkanawan and Marchie Maul delivered the goods when the Tribu recruited three more to clinch the cross-town-behind victory over the Cooking Oil Masters of NBC president Ildebrando "Tar" Padilla and Laguna boss Victoria "Weeping" Lazaro.

Spring was in command early and every took a 13-point lead, 41-28, in the second minute. But Mercado, the-only remaining member of the Tribu Sugbu team that won last year's NBC inaugural crown, ignited that fiery third quarter run with a soaring dunk over Cyrus Cobita.

Mercado, who averaged 13 points per game, was named the tourney's most valuable player.

The Scores:

First Game

CEBU CITY 79—De Ocampo 12, Vitto Cruz 8, Cabahug 6, Gonzales 6, Reyes 7, J. Flores 3, Mallari 3, Mercado 4, Cuevas 2, Consuegra 3, De Guia 2, Sanchez 2, Amoyo, Magsumbol

SAN JOSE 76—Gonzaga 18, Roma 12, Dimagiba 12, Ebarle 9, Santos 7, Aragon 6, Aragon 4, Ilano 4, Agana 4, Mallari 3, Magsumbol 3, Delgado 2, Chu 0, Cabe 0

Quarters: 19-16, 37-32, 58-52, 79-76

Second Game

TUBO 89—Pagkanawan 18, Mercado 15, Maul 13, Zaldo 12, Bautista 10, Gutierrez 7, Cabanes 6, Vergara 4, Rivera 2, Tauber 1, Abadeg 0, Opena 0, Ortiz 0

LAGUNA 79—Cortez 23, Manuel 12, Cuevas 11, Ar. Reyes 9, Vincent, Acuna 8, Fernandez, Arrieta 6, Ventura 4, Angel 3, Garcia 2, Santos 0, Gaspar 0

Quarters: 19-16, 37-32, 58-52, 79-79

Third Game

VITELO 86—Pagkanawan 18, Mercado 15, Maul 13, Zaldo 12, Bautista 10, Gutierrez 7, Cabanes 6, Vergara 4, Rivera 2, Tauber 1, Abadeg 0, Opena 0, Ortiz 0

LAGUNA 79—Cortez 23, Manuel 12, Cuevas 11, Ar. Reyes 9, Vincent, Acuna 8, Fernandez, Arrieta 6, Ventura 4, Angel 3, Garcia 2, Santos 0, Gaspar 0

Quarters: 19-16, 37-32, 58-52, 79-79

DENIED Cecilia of Ateneo tries to get past AJ Vergara of Mapúa.

Misolas wields magic as FEU's Wizards sizzle

By Jaymier W. Reyes

FORWARD Jason Misolas knows his role with the Magnolia-FEU Wizards. With a crowded frontcourt lineup, the former pro player had to settle with scrubbers that belie his capabilities.

Although Misolas has been getting ample playing minutes in the PBL Open Champs outfit, reigning Most Valuable Player award Sarao is apparently his team's offensive focal point.

But Misolas finally held his own in the Wizards' 61-54 victory over Welcoat Paints last Saturday that gave Magnolia-FEU the lead in its new best-of-three semifinal series. The win also extended the Wizards' amazing move 18 games.

Welcoat had eliminated to stop the streak in last year's losing finalists surged a superb comeback in the second half.

The Wizards blew a 20-18 halftime advantage but Misolas picked up the slack as he scored eight of his team's next 12 points that swung the momentum back to the defending champions.

The Paintmakers, however, gained relentless in the final four minutes as they clawed up within 49-51. A Misolas jumper followed by Conar Cahi's triple gave the Wizards' the lead for good, 54-51.

Misolas finished with a team-high 15 points, a big jump from his scoring average of 5.7 points this conference. He also grabbed six rebounds and a steal.

It was indeed the perfect time for Misolas to be on target since the Paintmakers succeeded in stifling the Wizards' lead scorers—Sarao and Cahi—out of the offensive equation.

Cahi scored only nine points and Sarao made seven.

"Jason will always be there for the team," said coach Koy Banal after Misolas was named as the PBL Player of the Week. "He won't force his shot if he doesn't feel it. He will only fire things you want him to do like playing defense, getting rebounds and scoring assists."

"He's a veteran," added Banal. "He's the only Magnolia player who has had to back championship experience that's why I asked him to share that experience with his teammates."

And Banal is hoping his experience would again come handy when the Wizards shoot for a semifinal sweep of Welcoat on Sunday.

Benilde booters clinch 1st round NCAA sr crown

ST. BENILDE goalie John Vayon's quick reflexes brought down defending champion Red Bulls College in an exciting close to the first round of the NCAA season 68 football senior division.

With the match going into penalty shoot-out, Vayon caught Jun Bola's Jeremiah Ano's shot as CSB claimed the first round pennant and spiced up the chance for a two-round sweep of the tournament.

Benilde's return to scratch when tournament senior moves up to the next level at the Philippine Navy Football Field 1 at the Utab of City in Taguig today.

College of St. Benilde juniors will attempt for a repeat of last year's double-round domination when it faces Ateneo Blue Eagles College again at 9 a.m. The Greenhills U lifted the boys from Menchaka last Saturday 2-0, for a perfect nine record in six matches in the first round and a major double-victory for the tournament's host school.

On the other hand, the senior CSB lit begins its quest for the outright championship against Mapua Institute of Technology at 11 p.m. The Cardinals hope to avenge their 1-4 loss in the first round.

Defending Philippine Christian University hosts late qualifier Colegio de San Juan de Letran at 1 p.m. in the other juniors match, while the senior Indians collide with Jose Rizal University at 3 p.m. to complete the day's activities.

Letran and Mapua won last Saturday against University of Perpetual Help and JRU, respectively, to seal up first & fourth place among the juniors with 2-1 records. But the Knights won in the penalty shoot-out, 4-2, at the end of the 30-minute extension of their dreams line. It's match to advance to the semifinals.

NCRAA CAGING

Patriots, Generals stay ahead

GAME 1 TODAY (New Clark City)
Perez—40 Cox vs Jake Hernandez
10:30 a.m.—400 vs PNP

THE LA SALLE DASMARIÑAS Patriots kept up with the Emilio Aguinaldo College Generals yesterday in the 12th Bridgestad Cup 3rd Region Athletic Association (NCRAA) men's basketball tournament at the Pasay Sports Complex.

Roger Nacpil and Francis Jimenez emerged as the Patriots' most dependable guard in the last quarter as they banged on the big baskets, which earned La Salle-Dasma to an 87-84 beating of Polytechnic University of the Philippines.

They stayed in front with the Generals, who defended in their second straight 83-81 triumph at the expense of the Jose Rizal University Flaming Arrows, 72-66.

La Salle-Dasma and EAC share 4-1 win/loss records after the Patriots fell, 73-87, to the Colegio de San Lorenzo Griffins early on.

Nacpil delivered 21 points and combined with Amat as for 12 points in the last 3:18 minutes.

The Patriots' hoopers turned their mark after the Marauders bought back and tied the count at 66.

Silas Sotigco and Ising Melocoton combined to do great damage against the opposition with their outside shots as they carried the Generals out of a 47-47 tie to the break.

Sotigco hit 19 points while Melocoton banged in 18, including three crucial buys in the second half.

Melocoton and Sotigco's triples in the closing minutes of the third period enabled the Generals to move ahead, 64-60.

The Marauders, who had Elpes Laguna back in action after returning into her collegiate crown two weeks ago, got 19 points from her net exploits.

The Scores:

First Game

JRU 66—Sotigco 19, Melocoton 18, Dalmacio 10, Palmero 10, De Ocampo 5, Guinitaran 2, Mendoza 2, Mendez 1.

ARELLANO 88—Martinez 14, D. Martinez 14, Cruz 12, Ramos 11, Torres 9, Rivera 4, Magsumbol 2, Pablo 2, Tamondo 0.

Halftime: 40-38

Second Game

LA SALLE-DASMARIÑAS 87—Nacpil 21, Jimenez 18, Amatorio 14, Pangan 8, Lacsa 6, Salazar 5, Palaypay 5, Amatorio 3, Cortes 3, Mariquit 2, Roque 2.

PUP 84—Laguna 19, Ramos 16, De la Cruz 11, Sumalpong 10, Bautista 9, Cruz 6, Gerardo 4, Laguipo 4, Ramos 3, De Mesa 2.

Bautista-Callejo snares classified doubles title

TIPTON Gail's Ben Bautista and Bethel's Richard Callejo turned out to be the best pair so they banked the solid and were twice over the tandem of Shaine Bulaog (Bullet) and Warren Perdiaz (FEU) to capture the championship of the classified doubles event of the first leg of the Metro Manila Tennis Circuit 2005 (MMTC) Saturday night at the Dasmariñas Restaurant, Market Ignacio St., Quezon City.

Coming from the loser's bracket, Bautista and Callejo turned back Aldo Amores and Arlan Santos in the semis to arrange a finals duel with Bulaog and Perdiaz, who defeated the pair of Mon Sabalboro and Rodolfo Cruz.

Bulaog and Perdiaz had two chances to dispose of the event but Ilifeh but just couldn't let the match as their game soured up.

En route to the semis of the tournament that attracted 32 pairs, Bulaog and Perdiaz defeated the tandem of Rene Quiroz and Bobby Concepcion.

The Open Singles event, wherein players can gain ranking and tuning points, was played yesterday at the same venue.

The tens season kicking off the 2005 season of the Dasmariñas Council of the Philippines, were supported by Tipton Gail, Dasmariñas Restaurant.

In all, there will be 12 legs to be played in different venues all over Metro Manila to determine the country's best amateurs available for international competition.

Mayweather stops Bruseles in round 8

MIAMI—Floyd Mayweather Jr. took a step toward a title in a third weight class Saturday by stopping Henry Bruseles with 55 seconds left in the eighth round.

Mayweather, former WBC super featherweight and lightweight champion was never in trouble as his quick combinations frustrated Bruseles in the scheduled 12-round bout at Bank-Atlantic Center in Sunrise.

While Mayweather set the tone in the fight with his speed, he used an impressive power punching display in the eighth to send Bruseles to the corner with a left-right combination to the head.

The Puerto Rican Bruseles (21-3-1, 15 KOs) got to his feet but Mayweather (33-0, 22 KOs) was ready with a left to the body, which set up an additional series of unanswered shots to the head. Bruseles again fell to the canvas but again beat the 10-count.

PRESENTATION FOR PARIS: Former President Fidel V. Ramos with running priest Robert Reyes and GAB Commissioner Eric Buhain (back) during the launching of the Philippine Marathon for Pasig River held at the Fort in Makati.

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Quisco

Survivor rescued 1 month after tsunami

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia—Four weeks after killer waves destroyed communities around the Indian Ocean, a lone tsunami survivor was rescued from a remote island, a rare moment of hope among overwhelmingly tales of grief and loss.

In India's Andaman and Nicobar islands, an archipelago close to the epicenter of the huge Dec. 26 earthquake that triggered the tsunami, a military officer said on Sunday that a man had been rescued after surviving by nearly four weeks on coconuts.

The survivor, Michael Shingal, told rescuers the first giant wave melted him out to sea before subsequent waves flung him back onto the tiny island of Pillow Pasja where he discovered everyone else from his village was gone.

It was one of the few pieces of good news in the Indian Ocean where as many as 225,000 were killed after the magnitude 9 earthquake off the Indonesian Sumatra island triggered the killer waves.

A month on, the military element of the massive international relief effort was starting to ease back.

The UN World Food Program (WFP) said on Sunday it was preparing for the eventual departure of foreign military transport helicopters, and even positioning a ship carrying food supplies off the western Aceh town of north Sumatra's Aceh province.

The 3,000-ton ship with its own landing craft, loading facilities and enough supplies of rice, noodles and biscuits to feed nearly one million for a month was due to arrive on Monday.

"It will make a significant difference to food distribution on the worst coast. Obviously, we are in the stage where we have to make our own arrangements, with the anticipated departure of the military militaries," WFP spokesperson Gerald Bourke said by the provincial capital Banda Aceh.

The US military, along with several others, has been providing the backbone of aid distribution operations on the worst coast using helicopters off two aircraft carriers.

Some refugees in Banda Aceh fear they are becoming dependent on aid and worry about when international relief efforts will close.

"I don't want to stay here forever, but I'm not sure how to get out," said Sinaia, a father who fled his shop and home, and is now living in a refugee camp.

Anita, a civil servant from the ruined west coast city of Calang, said her nerves hurtled.

"Where else can I go? Our relatives have lost also lost their homes. They are also not sure what to do in the future," said Anita, whose wife had been pregnant when the tsunami struck and gave birth last week.

SALOMA, 2, a Sri Lankan tsunami survivor whose parents are missing and presumed dead, holds a doll as she sits atop a broken wall of her home in the town of Kalmunai on Sri Lanka's east coast Jan. 22. Walking carefully in circles around the debris of her home, Saloma clutches her doll tightly to herself during a visit to her tsunami-destroyed home. She now lives in a temporary shelter. REUTERS

Children traumatized by the disaster that killed their families and destroyed their homes drew pictures expressing their feelings of loss.

One youngster, Zulmiadi, drew a picture of a boy holding onto a dog, with a fallen coconut tree, a house, someone on a road, and at the top, a coloured in sections that he says is the tsunami that hit his city Meulaboh. Lilling up to one child of its 1,00,000 people.

"I grabbed the dog when the water took me. It seems until it was safe," said Zulmiadi, 10, whose mother was killed.

Aid workers in Aceh still pull hundreds of bodies every day from the rubble of destroyed buildings and the mud left by receding waters.

Bodies are usually dumped unceremoniously in mass graves, but when Indonesian soldiers spotted the corpse of Andri Ary floating on a pool in Simeulu Aceh, they found a cellular phone in the decayed flesh of his blood hand.

They took the card out of the phone and used it to dial the number of a relative who was able to alert the 25-year-old student's uncle in Banda Aceh who said Ary would get a proper burial in the family cemetery. Reuters

Month of tragedy, unity

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia— The death toll in the Asian earthquake and tidal wave disaster which ravaged coastal regions across the Indian Ocean last month continued to rise this week as Indonesia announced the number of dead in the country had edged quite a bit over 600 to 166,760.

The new tally pushed the global total closer to 220,000.

The Sun's 26 quake off the coast of the Indonesian island of Sumatra measured 9.0 on the Richter scale, the biggest it ever recorded anywhere in the world in four decades.

- Dec. 26—0058 GMT (0.58 a.m. in Manila): A quake measuring 9.0 on the Richter scale hits the Indian Ocean, 250 km northwest of Indonesia's island of Sumatra.
- Thirty minutes later 10-metre-high waves wipe dozens of villages off the map in Sumatra's troubled Aceh province, which has already been devastated by decades of separatist conflict.
- Tsunamis also hit Sri Lanka, southern Burma, striking Thailand, Sri Lanka, India—notably the Andaman and Nicobar islands—Burma, Malaysia, the Maldives, Bangladesh, Kenya, Somalia and Tanzania.
- Dec. 27—The United Nations says the size of the damage from the disaster will run to billions of dollars and require the biggest humanitarian aid operation in the nearly 60-year history of the UN.
- Dec. 28—Aftershocks in the Ocean

UK makes case against joining US in attacking Iran

LONDON—Foreign Secretary Jack Straw has dressed up Britain's resistance to military action against Iran amid fears US President George W. Bush may seek support for a new conflict, a newspaper reported Sunday.

Straw has produced a 200-page dossier that rules out military action and makes the case for a "negotiated solution" to thwart Iran's suspected ambition to purchase nuclear weapons, The Sunday Times reported.

It says a peaceful solution led by Britain, France and Germany is "in the best interests of Iran and the international community" while referring to "safeguarding Iran's right to the peaceful use of nuclear technology."

The dossier, titled Iran's Nuclear Program, was quietly issued in the House of Commons on the eve of Bush's inauguration last week for fear of provoking a public rift with Washington, the newspaper said.

However, it added that privately ministers are warning high between the two nations.

Tar approach common with the British government's two big disasters, which were trumpeted as risks the country faced in the US-led invasion on March 2003.

The Sunday Times said the message that the British government wants to put in another war in the Middle East will be reinforced by Prime Minister Tony Blair when he meets Bush in Brussels next month and at an Anglo-American summit in Washington after the British general election, expected in May.

It said Straw will also make the case when he meets US secretary of state nominee Condoleezza Rice, a Bush confidante, in London next month.

The perception that the United States is embarking on a course of confrontation with Iran has grown since The New Yorker magazine reported this week that US commandos have been operating inside Iran since mid-2004, possibly sounding targets for possible air strikes.

The Pentagon attacked the story by investigative reporter Seymour Hersh as "riddled with errors of fundamental fact" but did not expressly deny conducting covert reconnaissance missions.

Vice President Dick Cheney declining on a radio talk show this week that Iran was "right at the top of the list" of global problems, warned that Tehran might launch a preemptive strike on its own to shut down Iran's nuclear program.

But Cheney played down the likelihood US military action. AFP

WORLD HERITAGE ATTRACTION
Old snow cabin roofs covered by snow shine from lights in Shirakawa, central Japan, Jan. 22. Japan's popular tourist spot in this deep mountainside drawn thousands of tourists who view the annual light up on this 14 farmhouses, which are listed as World Heritage.

US military options in Iran not good, analysts say

By Jim Mannion

WASHINGTON—With the bulk of its ground forces tied down in Iraq, the United States has compelling reasons to avoid military action against neighboring Iran even while stepping up pressure to halt its nuclear program, analysts said here.

"There are no good military options," James Carafano, a military expert with the conservative Heritage Foundation, said Friday.

The United States could launch precision strikes on targets in Iran from its US warships or from the carrier fleet of its longtime threat from nuclear armed Iranian missiles, any gains would likely be outweighed by the trouble Iran could cause US forces in Iraq and Afghanistan, he said.

Anthony Cordesman, an expert on Iran at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said Iran "would not say preemption is a reason to invite Iranian."

"It would probably exact high in whatever increment, and that would make it more destabilizing than stabilizing," he said in an interview.

"But there would be many people who argue just the opposite," he continued.

Indeed, the perception that the United States is embarking on a course of confrontation with Iran has grown here since The New Yorker magazine reported this week that US commandos have been operating inside Iran since mid-2004, possibly scouting targets for possible air strikes.

The Pentagon attacked the story by investigative reporter Seymour Hersh as "riddled with errors of fundamental fact" but did not expressly deny conducting covert reconnaissance missions.

The US military already has its hands full in Iraq, where 150,000 US troops are struggling to sustain a predominantly Kurd insurgency.

A ground war with Iran would be unsustainable, Cordesman said in an interview.

"We couldn't do another large scale ground operation without a major mobilization that would require mobilizing basically all of the national guard," he said.

"Even if we wanted to do that, it would be pretty obvious because it would take six months if not years to get the national guard up and ready to go."

Even a limited US attack on Iran, which shares a 1,400-kilometer open border with Iraq, would invite Tehran to use to influence among Iraq's Shiites to sabotage the separate power US forces have acquired in southern Iraq, "the easiest way to do Afghanistan, which has a 900-kilometer border with Iran.

"What you're trying to stabilize Iraq and you've got this long border between Iran and Iraq, and you're trying to keep the Iranians from interfering in Iraq or you can get the Iraq government up and running, you shouldn't be picking a war with the Iranians," said Cordesman.

"I just doesn't make any sense from a geopolitical standpoint," he said.

Iran is believed to pursue its most sensitive facilities by dispersing, burying and hardening them, hardening from the 1981 Israeli air strike on Iraq's Osirak nuclear reactor.

So the payoff from targeted strikes on suspected nuclear facilities would be uncertain and could prompt Iran to seek nuclear weapons more quickly, Cordesman said.

"On the other hand," said Cordesman, "one can argue that a successful strike has a powerful intimidating and deterrent impact."

"The Iranians will always be those people who argue that the short-term political cost will be offset by the longer term impact on Iran's political behavior and military capabilities," he said.

However, he said, it's an answer to consider how close Iran is to gaining a nuclear weapon, or what the US military has learned about its efforts, before discussing the course of action the United States may take.

"Which meshed with any person that proliferates that is hostile, you are going to constantly update and improve your contingency plans, and you are going to carry out intelligence reconnaissance," he said.

"One problem is, you are going to carry out virtually exactly the same intelligence effort if you are contemplating significant options or if you are trying to make arms control work, or put pressure on the UN and Europe to be more effective in their negotiating effort," he said. AFP

JP Morgan Chase admits making money from slavery

NEW YORK—More a careful review of its history to which it had agreed, JP Morgan Chase disclosed its historic connection with slavery in the United States and apologized.

"Recently JP Morgan Chase completed extensive research examining our company's history for any links to slavery to meet a commitment to the city of Chicago," the company said in a statement released Thursday.

"We are reporting that this research found that, between 1831 and 1865, two of our predecessor banks—Citizens Bank and Canal Bank in Louisiana—accepted approximately 13,000 enslaved individuals as collateral on loans and took ownership of approximately 1,200 of them when the plantation owners defaulted on the loans," it added.

"We all know slavery existed in our country, but it is quite different to see how our history and the institution of slavery were intertwined. History was tragically ingrained in American society, but that is no excuse.

"We apologize to the American public, and particularly to African-Americans, for the role that Citizens Bank and Canal Bank played during that period.

"Although we cannot change the past, we are committed to learning from and managing prudent information in the present," it said.

JP Morgan Chase said that, as the events took place in Louisiana, it would set up a $5-million college scholarship program for students living in the northern state. AFP

ANN editors to attend World Economic Forum

BANGKOK—China, India, Taiwan and global climate change are among the dominating topics of this week's annual meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos which will be attended by all editors of Asia News Network, an alliance of 14 newspapers in 12 Asian countries.

The forum will be opened by Switzerland's President Samuel Schmid while Malaysian Prime Minister who will lay out his priorities as president of the 10 group of nations for the coming year.

Two editors of Asia News Network will also be on the podium. Chan Chung-sen, editor of China Daily will be a panelist at discussion on "What does it mean to be Chinese."

Sudhichai Yoon, editor in chief of Bangkok Multimedia Group, will moderate a session on "Asia's New Balancing act" with speakers including Shashank Asia, Persia Minister of Defense; Josep Borrell Fontelles, president European Parliament; Surakiart Sathirathai, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of Japan; James A. Lash, congressman from Iowa; etc; and Shen Guofang, assistant minister of foreign affairs Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China.

Aside from China Daily and The Nation, other members of Asia News Network are The Straits Times (Singapore), Business Times, Jakarta Post, Philippine Daily Inquirer, The Iran and the Korea Daily (Malaysia), The Statesman (India), the Island (Sri Lanka), Daily Star (Bangladesh), Kuwa (Kuwait), Daily Yomiuri and Yomiuri Shimbun (Japan). Visit www.asianewsnet.net.

INET's Executive Chairman Prof Klaus Schwab said of the year's theme—Taking Responsibility for Tough Choices—"We find ourselves in a situation of crisis in the world and its leaders. There are a number of new beginnings, from the new presidency of the European Commission to the election of a new President for the Palestinian Authority, to the new leadership in Ukraine. Leaders from all sectors of society will unite to throw [illegible] at work on ways to consolidate and build on these new beginnings to improve the state of the world.

"What is needed is a pragmatic optimism," the creative to work with the world we have, to make a world as it should be," he said.

Over the course of the five day meeting, more than 2,200 participants from 96 countries will convene in Davos, including more than 200 heads of state or governments, 70 Cabinet ministers, 28 religious leaders, 33 union leaders and more than 50 heads of nongovernmental organizations. Around 50 percent of the participants are business leaders drawn principally from the forum's members—1,000 of the foremost companies from around the world and across all economic sectors. Asia News Network

THE STAREX IS no.1 BECAUSE OF

In gratitude, we're giving you these amazing rewards to choose from!

Because you have made us the #1 car in the Philippines", we're celebrating this achievement by giving you an exclusive selection of thanksgiving treats. Every purchase of a Starex Cruiser (non-CRDI) model entitles you to any of these special gifts. It's all on us, all for you - because you have brought us to the top!

Thanksgiving Treat 1
Thanksgiving Treat 2
Thanksgiving Treat 3
P20,000.00

Hurry! Avail of a Starex at your nearest Hyundai dealer and grab the treat you desire NOW!

Promo starts January 24 up to March 15 only.

HYUNDAI
Drive your way

ISSN 0116-2442 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Vol. 25 No. 47

OPINION

Publisher [illegible]
Editor [illegible]
Managing Editor [illegible]
Associate Editors [illegible]
Assistant Editor [illegible]
News Editor [illegible]
Opinion Editor [illegible]
Assistant Editor [illegible]
City Editor [illegible]
Associate Editor [illegible]
Editorial Consultant [illegible]
Art & Design Director [illegible]

Board Chairman [illegible]
President [illegible]
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing [illegible]
Senior Vice President for Corporate Services [illegible]
Vice President for Advertising [illegible]
Vice President for Circulation [illegible]

The Bush jubilee

WHAT has US President George W. Bush's extraordinary second inaugural address wrought? Mainly, it has pushed Americanism right to the fetish. The leader of the world's only superpower has asked its fellow citizens to take a leap of faith with him, but in truth it is a suicide jump into a dangerous world.

On its face, the new Bush doctrine is both categorical and unobjectionable: "So it is the policy of the United States to seek and support the growth of democratic movements and institutions in every nation and culture, with the ultimate goal of ending tyranny in our world." But the doctrine seeks to spread the gospel of freedom throughout the world in a way guaranteed to subvert it.

EDITORIAL

Bush is not the first American president to raise the banner of freedom on inauguration day. His own father, in 1989, unfurled the flag. "For a new breeze is blowing, and a world refreshed by freedom seems reborn; for in man's heart, if not in fact, the day of the dictator is over." (Bush senior was the same man who, in 1981, toasted the dictator Ferdinand Marcos' "adherence to democratic principles.")

But most American presidents have used freedom's standard, not to reshape the world, but America itself. In 1969, as Richard Nixon's first address, the challenge was racial. "We have given freedom new reach, and we have begun to make its promise real for black as well as for white." In Ronald Reagan's second inauguration, it was primarily economic. "The time has come for a new American emancipation—a great national drive to tear down economic barriers and liberate the spirit of enterprise in the most distressed areas of our country."

Most American presidents have also believed that freedom is best served through the power of example. In 1965, for instance, Lyndon Johnson described the United States in city-on-a-hill terms. "Conceived in justice, written in liberty, bound to union, it was meant one day to inspire the hopes of all mankind." In 1981, the first time he took his oath, Reagan described a similar vision: "We will again be the exemplar of freedom and a beacon of hope for those who do not now have freedom."

Most American presidents have also preferred to speak of freedom in the language of service. Carter: "The passion for freedom is on the rise. Tapping this new spirit, there can be no nobler nor more ambitious task for America to undertake on this day of a new beginning than to help shape a just and peaceful world that is truly human." Bush senior: "We as a people have such a purpose today. It is to make kinder the face of the nation and gentler the fate of the world."

Now what has Bush junior done, exactly? In an increasingly pluralist world threatened by the specter of religious extremism and political fundamentalism, he has turned freedom into an American religion.

Using evangelical language, Bush announced the new mission. "America, in this young century, proclaims liberty throughout all the world, and to all the inhabitants thereof." It is an echo of Leviticus 25:10, when the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob instructed Moses: "Consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you."

Thus, the new Bush doctrine is not merely a reinstatement of Jimmy Carter's confession in 1977: "Because we are free we can never be indifferent to the fate of freedom elsewhere. Our moral sense dictates a clear-cut preference for those nations which share with us an abiding respect for individual human rights." It is not merely a reiteration of Bill Clinton's pledge in 1993, in his first inauguration: "Our hopes, our hearts, our hands, are with those on every continent who are building democracy and freedom. Their cause is America's cause."

The new Bush doctrine is Manifest Destiny all over again, but this time in theological terms. As author David Bromley has written: "The result, by implication in the president's rhetoric, is that the administration has transformed Bush's 'father you are with us, so you are with the terrorists' policy into 'Either you are with us, or you are against God.'" Pity the opposition, both in the United States and abroad.

By assuming his new role as high priest and prophet of freedom, Bush has not made the world safe for democracy. On the contrary he has made it more difficult for democracy to take root elsewhere in the world.

Medicines imported by RP gov't are not fake

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

MULTINATIONAL pharmaceutical companies are currently out on a propaganda drive to scare Filipino consumers into buying only their very branded medicines. This is a reaction to the effort at the Philippine government, through the Philippine International Trading Corporation, to procure Filipino trade clearance medicines from other countries, notably India. The propaganda line of the multinationals is that the PITC imports are fake, fake.

On legal jurisdiction, drugs coming from other countries for free sale in the same brand as those manufactured here, are called "counterfeit." They are made of the same ingredients and the same formulation as those made here. They are even manufactured by many companies (in India and Europe) of the multinationals here. Technically they are made by the same company, but in its different branches. So they are called "subsidiaries" when they are imported by countries other than their own manufactured. They are the same medicines, genuine products, only they are made in another country. They are legally termed "counterfeit."

Further they say that the Filipinos have that they are made of different amounts in the ingredients or are harmful to health. Unfortunately, to the Philippines, "counterfeit" is often mistaken for "fake," as in "spurious" or "knockoffs." But that is where the multinationals are trying to place in the minds of Filipino consumers that what is imported medicines, even those made by their sister companies, are "fake."

No, they are not. They are the same medicines as those made in the multinationals here. The only difference is that they are very much cheaper than those manufactured here.

The multinationals are not making even the slightest concession to the effort of the "fake" for obvious reasons. The average thing to why the PITC is not explaining the difference to protect its own imports.

From here, the Consumer has been silent in by their fake drugs. As a result of the multinationals' consumer on health, it was obvious that we also confuses "counterfeit" drugs with "fake" drugs, as did the other consumer mentioned here. Consumers and the Department of Health, Bureau of Customs, PITC and the Drug Stores Association of the Philippines (DSAP) should "disseminate information necessary to combat the illegal trade."

One necessary information to enlighten the public is precisely to differentiate between "counterfeit" and "fake drugs." And to the second place, the drugs being imported by the PITC are not "illegal." The PITC was tasked precisely to import medicines because these manufactured here by the multinationals are so expensive they are beyond the reach of the poor. Secretary Roberto Pagdanganan, chief of the PITC, was not the founding, but he did not take the importation to replace that of the medicines he opposed are importing are not "fake." Neither did the representatives of the DSAP, who should know better.

They have their multinationals embedded on this false propaganda? Because they are afraid of the competition they may face from the cheap drugs the PITC is importing from India, Pakistan and Europe. The multinationals have been making a killing in the Philippines because of the poverty of the Philippine drug market. Filipino pharmaceutical companies, of which Unilab is the biggest, have the remaining 20 percent.

The multinationals compose an oligopoly. Only one company has more than the different medicines of the different drug companies. And they are marketed by one big drugstore chain, Mercury Drug, that has hundreds of branches all over the country. Many of the small family-owned stores and farmacias have been killed off by this chain.

And that is why the multinational drug companies can dictate their high prices. They have formed cooperatives, like the Big Five corporations.

But that is why then Trade Secretary Mar Roxas thought of importing medicines from India, which they are joined a chairman of what they commissioned here. The present PITC is continuing the importation and distributing them through government hospitals and clinics and barangay centers. These are not enough, however, so the PITC is distributing the cheaper drugs through drugstores and sari-sari stores to make them accessible to an ideal people at just affordable. And that is why Galvanoni told the consumers' hearing that most of the fake drugs "are sold in sari-sari centers and small drugstores," and that the multinationals' drugs are high-quality drugs sold in drugstores (meaning laboratory-and pharmaceutical companies' (meaning the multinationals). The target of the propaganda is obviously the drugstores of the government.

Of course, there are really fake drugs manufactured here by illegal, small backyard companies but the multinationals are not afraid of them. What they are really afraid of are the legitimate generic drugs. And there may really be some medicines smuggled here. But that is because basic prices are so high that it makes smuggling profitable.

Let me explain the similarities being imported by the PITC from India and Europe are much cheaper but they are not fake. The Philippine government will not import fake medicines.

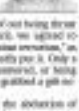
Why are both make the same medicines here in Chicago? Because it does not have to pay for the patent rights; by using a different process but ending the same ingredients. We should change our patent laws so we can do the same thing and consume our people from the greedy practices of the multinationals.

REMINDER: This evening, at 6:30, is the inauguration of the Front Page picture for Journalists's exhibition and art gallery on 731, Kalaw Street, near the Rizal Park in Manila. Journalists and their friends are invited.

Dangerous

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



THE BBC recently confirmed what most of the world has known since 9/11. George W. Bush is a dangerous man. He is not the common of terror, but he does provide it.

Only the Philippines, India, and Poland do not think so. So the average, across 68 countries, 36 percent of the people think Americans believe Bush's reelection has made the world an unsafe place to live in. Unfortunately the Philippines, India, and Poland are among the few Bush is liked as well. The BBC sample, 21,000 of them in 21 countries, made no distinction between the American government and the American people, between Bush and his countrymen. Negative feelings about Bush are overwhelmingly interpreted by the American people who elected him," said BBC.

I don't know about Poland, but I do know that the Philippines and India have one thing in common, which is the spectacular divide between the rich and the poor. Which produces obscene cavorting alongside unthinkable misery, which is mansions or palaces surrounded by high walls teeming with hovels and cardboard dwellings nestling on the flood. Which is to a small cause of Christians cavorting with a man of Christian values, which is religiousness and billions cavorting with ignorance and disenchantment. It's not surprising many Indians see the world the same way as many Filipinos.

The difference, of course, is that India was colonized by the British and the Philippines was by the Americans. Camille Sevel threw from their rule, not the least from the subsequent mind-class worm with it. Nobody did the colonizing for us. To this day we seem to think Black is indebted to all the freedom-loving peoples of this earth.

Well, he's not. And unfortunately for us, our misimpressions about the world do not carry a small price. What particularly scares the hell out of me is the breathtaking idiocy with which our American core leaders seem to believe in the free the world. This a person with our worst acceptances of being chief enforcer of Bush's "anti-terrorist" campaign in this part of the world. Only a couple of weeks ago, not only was Cambodia's premier Hun Sen invited to the inauguration of Thaksin Shinawatra, the CEO prime minister of Thailand, but Arroyo herself was there to congratulate him. Thaksin is the man who has been accused of human rights violations in the conduct of his war on drugs, which has resulted in the killing of more than 2,000 people in the last three months alone. Arroyo's presence there was a ringing endorsement of Thaksin's methods.

Then there's Indonesia's Megawati Sukarnoputri, who has been accused of human rights violations in East Timor and Aceh. Megawati was also invited to the inauguration of Thaksin, and Arroyo was also there to congratulate her. Megawati's presence there was a ringing endorsement of her methods.

Then there's Vietnam's Nguyen Minh Triet, who has been accused of human rights violations in the conduct of his war on Montagnards. Triet was also invited to the inauguration of Thaksin, and Arroyo was also there to congratulate him. Triet's presence there was a ringing endorsement of his methods.

Then there's Myanmar's Than Shwe, who has been accused of human rights violations in the conduct of his war on the Karen people. Than Shwe was also invited to the inauguration of Thaksin, and Arroyo was also there to congratulate him. Than Shwe's presence there was a ringing endorsement of his methods.

Then there's Laos's Choummaly Sayasone, who has been accused of human rights violations in the conduct of his war on the Hmong people. Sayasone was also invited to the inauguration of Thaksin, and Arroyo was also there to congratulate him. Sayasone's presence there was a ringing endorsement of his methods.

Then there's Brunei's Hassanal Bolkiah, who has been accused of human rights violations in the conduct of his war on the Dayak people. Bolkiah was also invited to the inauguration of Thaksin, and Arroyo was also there to congratulate him. Bolkiah's presence there was a ringing endorsement of his methods.

Then there's Singapore's Lee Hsien Loong, who has been accused of human rights violations in the conduct of his war on the Malay people. Lee was also invited to the inauguration of Thaksin, and Arroyo was also there to congratulate him. Lee's presence there was a ringing endorsement of his methods.

Then there's Malaysia's Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, who has been accused of human rights violations in the conduct of his war on the Indian people. Badawi was also invited to the inauguration of Thaksin, and Arroyo was also there to congratulate him. Badawi's presence there was a ringing endorsement of his methods.

Then there's Cambodia's Hun Sen, who has been accused of human rights violations in the conduct of his war on the Vietnamese people. Hun Sen was also invited to the inauguration of Thaksin, and Arroyo was also there to congratulate him. Hun Sen's presence there was a ringing endorsement of his methods.

Then there's Thailand's Thaksin Shinawatra, who has been accused of human rights violations in the conduct of his war on drugs, which has resulted in the killing of more than 2,000 people in the last three months alone. Arroyo's presence there was a ringing endorsement of Thaksin's methods.

Then there's Indonesia's Megawati Sukarnoputri, who has been accused of human rights violations in East Timor and Aceh. Megawati was also invited to the inauguration of Thaksin, and Arroyo was also there to congratulate her. Megawati's presence there was a ringing endorsement of her methods.

Then there's Vietnam's Nguyen Minh Triet, who has been accused of human rights violations in the conduct of his war on Montagnards. Triet was also invited to the inauguration of Thaksin, and Arroyo was also there to congratulate him. Triet's presence there was a ringing endorsement of his methods.

Then there's Myanmar's Than Shwe, who has been accused of human rights violations in the conduct of his war on the Karen people. Than Shwe was also invited to the inauguration of Thaksin, and Arroyo was also there to congratulate him. Than Shwe's presence there was a ringing endorsement of his methods.

Then there's Laos's Choummaly Sayasone, who has been accused of human rights violations in the conduct of his war on the Hmong people. Sayasone was also invited to the inauguration of Thaksin, and Arroyo was also there to congratulate him. Sayasone's presence there was a ringing endorsement of his methods.

Then there's Brunei's Hassanal Bolkiah, who has been accused of human rights violations in the conduct of his war on the Dayak people. Bolkiah was also invited to the inauguration of Thaksin, and Arroyo was also there to congratulate him. Bolkiah's presence there was a ringing endorsement of his methods.

Then there's Singapore's Lee Hsien Loong, who has been accused of human rights violations in the conduct of his war on the Malay people. Lee was also invited to the inauguration of Thaksin, and Arroyo was also there to congratulate him. Lee's presence there was a ringing endorsement of his methods.

Then there's Malaysia's Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, who has been accused of human rights violations in the conduct of his war on the Indian people. Badawi was also invited to the inauguration of Thaksin, and Arroyo was also there to congratulate him. Badawi's presence there was a ringing endorsement of his methods.

Conflicting views

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cavanaugh

SENATE President Franklin Drilon called up to discuss the omission in the columns that had the Senate enacted extra effort to pass another tax revenue measure, Standard & Poor's might not have downgraded our sovereign credit rating a notch lower. I had pointed out earlier that it was no secret that S&P was anxiously monitoring the performance of Congress on those measures. Moreover, enough warnings had been made by various economic managers that the failure to pass those measures effort in narrowing the burgeoning budget deficit and our total debt—now above 3.5 trillion of our GDP—by passing at least a couple of tax measures.

* * *

I phrased the blame on the Senate because the House had passed five revenue bills (three of them among the eight Palace priority bills), whereas the Senate adjourned for the Christmas break, whereas the former had passed only the so-called "sin taxes" (which became law last month). A special session called after Christmas would have been the ideal time to pass the tax measures. Since the resumption of session earlier this month, another bill, on the rationalization of fiscal incentives, was rushed by both chambers, leaving only the bills on the value-added tax (VAT) exemption of the lateral attrition bill granting incentives to Internal Revenue and Customs personnel for improved collections. But by then S & P's had already announced its decision to downgrade, triggering a domino effect, as the rating by Moody's Services is expected early next month.

* * *

I told Drilon that, perhaps, if the Senate had succeeded in passing another bill—say the income tax reform bill, which was among the three Palace priority revenue bills passed by the House before the Christmas break—S & P's might not have downgraded RP's credit rating. He disagreed, saying that the only bill that might have dissuaded the rating agency from this crisis was the one increasing VAT from 10 to 12 percent. The bill would yield the biggest revenue amount of revenue but, he conceded, this was not easy to pass because of its wide ranging impact on the public. (It is simply railroad to passage of bills in the chamber leading to the impression that Senate committees confine the provisions to other words, once the senator the House members fight it out with the senators in the bicam, instead of engaging themselves in the Senate.

The House members, however, justify process in the enactment, saying that the problem with the senators is that they don't want to work long hours, and go home by 6 p.m.; whereas the congressmen often work into the wee hours. They also note that a number of House lawmakers held hearings through the late Christmas break and produced the needed quorum for the special session, except that there was nothing else happening in the Senate, some of them didn't bother to return. "Kulang sa effort ang mga senators," said a House member, who added that the approval by the House sends the message to the Senate that the revenue measures for the months is a "moral of zero." Their frustration over the non-passage of bills has led to agitation for a shift to parliamentary government legislature. But then the lawmakers realize that shift would need the approval of the Senate.

* * *

Among the significant gifts I received last Christmas was a rare book on the life of Rizal by the longtime friend, former Sen. Sotanstina Rizal. It featured paintings by her granddaughter, Rosalia Rizal Fernandez, daughter of Rosalia Rizal and Gregorio Fernandez, granddaughter of Josefa Rizal and Teodoro Sandiko, great-granddaughter of Trinidad Rizal and Maximo Hizon. The paintings featured those of young boys, which the cover said "were inspired by child subjects in the Philippine mission countries." Sotanstina related that in 2003, Rosalia went to the jungles of Jolo, Sulu, to meet and interview child subjects. The encounter left superstitious mark on the young girl's consciousness. She painted the scenes in her own memory, when she was in Williams College in Virginia. The faces of the young boys are like those of boys everywhere, happy and smiling, as though strangers to a violent world. They would make a good exhibit one day perhaps, to mark the end of the Mindanao conflict—soon!

Long walk to freedom

TRUE moral justice is still a long way off for much of Asia. It is time for leaders to wake up to the demands of their people.

If you were walking out of prison after serving a lengthy term, you would more than likely experience the surreal, as by having stepping into a different time zone, as if you had an internal clock that ran at a slower pace than real time.

This prisoner, I felt as if he would re-adjust to a dull, lethargic rhythm. It was a would to which death was more real and more awake. Prisons are built to isolate criminals from the rest of us, become endemic and a sometimes used as a convenient political tool. My own maids and six years incarceration, for example, had all the hassle of legality and procedural justice, but only for the jailer. In essence, the whole saga was just a more sophisticated version of the Mexican siesta trial.

Aside from political persecution masked by legal pretenders, we also have examples of gulags (Soviet Siberia) labor camps and political prisons, especially in Indonesia and Africa. It is amazing how stubbornly these camps of shame survive. They constantly serve well the sinister political purposes of those in power.

How many have suffered from a miscarriage of justice? Celebrated victims—the Mendiolas and the Jimi Isla—tend to be remembered, and given their place in history, but what happens to the rest? More than remains heinous and simply disgusting?

Hope must be the most weakened of human interests, but it is what makes us human. To the many who are unjustly incarcerated, it is hope that preserves their humanity. Some hope for justice beyond the grave, and some hope the world will become a better place so that others will not suffer as they have.

I can have such hopes, which I extend with the use of prisons, along with my nonchalance and handle of decline. When the Supreme Court announced my Pardon, I felt a shot of euphoria managing through my veins. But it was a temporary high. As it began to wear off, I realized that although I was free from the cold prisons of lead and walls, I was in other walls, more insidious, surrounding me and my compassion. I may be free to socialize with family and friends, but in my mind's eye, I hear the rattle of chains that seek to shackle your thoughts and imaginations.

The Asian currency crisis and economic meltdown—the backdrop to my incarceration—are now a distant memory. Thailand is now on the road to recovery, and the Philippines are again economic powerhouses. Pre-Indonesia, the crisis was cataclysmic, but it terminated Suharto's military rule, forced open the gate to genuine democracy—the biggest in the Muslim world—and reintroduced free press and a vibrant civil society. The economic crisis of the late 1990s was not without its benefits. Asia's leaders, who were so full of hubris in words if not yet in deeds, this spectra a bad for business...for a the business of governing in the business of making money.

In the former exclusion to reform and unfriendly to democracy have no simple surrendered. On the contrary, they have used to strengthen their position. The worst incumbency the Mahathir party has created the boom at last on. Anwar has been in jail for a year on charges of sodomy, which most people assume to be trumped up. Anwar remains a democracy while their political master that the playing field remains increasingly uneven. The press remains submissive to the ruling clique, and fundamental liberties are severely curtailed.

One of the dividends of the crisis is that the struggle for freedom and democracy has become regional. The struggle across a forging regional solidarity for democracy and human rights. The governments of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations—the 10-nation regional grouping—are fearful of this new development and cling stubbornly to their outmoded doctrine of non-intervention in the domestic affairs of member states.

Asian is replete with internal contradictions. Some of its countries—notably the Philippines, Thailand...have made great leaps into Asian democracy. But they have not made a serious effort to influence their less democratic partners, or to put democracy on the Asean agenda. The region's leaders are proud of their tradition of consensual decision-making, but this is the very thing that has grown the group more, less unless it contributing to set a standard of democratic governance that it could impose on member-states.

But freedom has a demonstrative effect. Asian leaders must wake up to the reality that democracy is increasingly anything to promote in the region. The democratic movement nurtured by social and political activism and by unlimited access to information—the Internet—is unstoppable. As turmoil "Burmese" community. It will be increasingly evident to the region's citizens that authoritarianism limits their choices and only democracy is capable of meeting their demand for greater choice. And as the economies of the region become more interlinked, so do the fates of the many peoples.

Beside Burma, two states are fundamental cultural, economic and political meeting points. The desire for wealth is a common motivation, and it has resulted in high economic growth in the region, albeit uneven.

But economic well being translates into desire for greater freedom. Current disenchantment with Islam is due to their co-operation. They should know that they are deceiving. Supporting immoral regimes are will bring with it huge unintended consequences. It is the only the Burmese desire for democracy, openness and freedom that they will have to grapple with.

It may not be too long before the peoples of the region begin to see themselves as members of a single community. When that happens, the seed of Asian greatness will have been sown.

Anwar Ibrahim is the former deputy prime minister of Malaysia. This article appears in full in Global Agenda, the magazine of the World Economic Forum.

A dark, make-believe world

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Antonio J. Montalvan II

THAT is what reader Ben San Buenaflor, a social worker, finds our society could become if the Filipino mass would be forced subject to "devious manipulations" by politicians in what he says are the governments of the United States, Canada, Germany, Singapore, Qatar, etc. The two are saying in an e-mail he sent to me.

Buenaflor is in his late middle and into the twilight years of youth. I would say that our anti-PEA media, by committing the pro-PEA, do add fuel to the fire. Besides, they've given Senate, senate recall me that Senate President Franklin Drilon is the only Filipino leader to have been educated in

Maynilad syndicate in extortion scheme?

LETTERS

MAYNILAD in Head Gen has exposed on the mismanagement of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS, 12/13/04), and to the lessons for its news on the 50-percent increase in Maynilad's water rates. (PDI, 12/5/04)

However, I would like to call attention to one aspect of Maynilad's operation that needs immediate correction. This is its billing system, which is manipulated through the water meters that it issues to consumers. Maynilad has been replacing old meters with new ones that run faster, effectively raising water rates—twice or thrice or even four times over—even before the 30-percent increase was approved by the MWSS. This practice is not only abusive; this is definitely criminally coercive.

Consumers are then sent scandalously "high" billings that Maynilad itself marks "under protest," never mind if no protest has yet been filed. It seems to manners, Maynilad people replace an old water meter with a new paired one, which they later claim is for broken. Then Maynilad sends billings based on what it calls "meter-age classification" (consumption), because no "reliable" water meter reading can be taken.

If the consumers complain, Maynilad's Investor Information Directorate accuses them—especially if they are owners of pension houses or establishments that admit boarders or tenants—of tampering the meters and demands outright a "penalty" or "fine" amounting to P200,000 or more. The consumers cannot defend themselves against Maynilad's "needs" and unilateral decision of guilt. Either they pay or they will be penalized with disconnection.

In such instances, it is plain to see that there is no due process. What is clear is the existence of a tyrannical extortion scheme for revenue enhancement. In other words, this is how Maynilad's Revenue Enhancement Directorate rings funds. The dirty run is conflict with the Arroyo administration's drive against corruption and injustice. President Macapagal-Arroyo should immediately order the proper agencies to look and act on this matter so that investors in a public utility that operates practically as a monopoly within its franchise area.

There is the possibility that a syndicate, which has for members water readers and their cousins, is involved in this extortion scheme. And it is possible that the "penalties" collected in the name of Maynilad just go into the pocket of its members.

—JANET TC.
Evangelista Street
Arguelles Street,
Baguio City

WILL the "wet-flag" drive instill pedestrian discipline?

Disturted logic, baseless optimism

LETTERS to President Macapagal-Arroyo and her financial advisers talk about the economy, one gets the impression that the economy is reviving by leaps.

To gauge the state of the economy on the color of loan and prepaid cell phone cards is preposterous. Not all loan shakers have money to spare. Those who are addicted to alcohol will scrape their bottom pots just to support their vice, never mind if there is finally any final on the table. The same goes for those addicted to sewing. They would rather spend money on their cell phones than on more important things.

People in Iloilo couldn't have disagreed more with the administration's baseless optimism on the economy. The last Christmas/holiday season, (the holidays are usually the push season for tourism at the fraternity), was mostly quiet. One could see that business was down.

It would be great if we could share the optimism of the President and her financial gurus, but reality is coming to be the law!

—BENJAMIN ELIEFF.
PO. Box 105,
Iloilo City Freeport Zone,
Otongpan City 5000

MMDA's senseless scheme

METRO Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando is again on a campaign. The MMDA is into another scheme that is hostile and contagious as its previous ones.

The MMDA is completely missing the whole picture. Its "drenched cloth" campaign is not going to install awareness of traffic rules and regulations among pedestrians. Besides, the MMDA's chief member of "wet flag" trucks cannot possibly patrol every single leg of selected Metro Manila roads, where thousands of commuters flock every day. The motor that the MMDA truck leaves, everything will just go back to "normal." Moreover, it victimizes a person's basic right to be treated with dignity.

Obviously, the scheme does not even consider, among others, the welfare of some commuters who would get to their schools and workplaces wet and dirty because of three soaked rags. Instead of wasting time and resources for ridiculous projects, the MMDA should improve on its traffic enforcement (e.g., implementation of specific and convenient loading and unloading zones).

Also, the MMDA should develop our sidewalks so that all can have easy access. Many sidewalks are full of obstructions making pedestrians use the sidewalks instead of the roadsides. How can it instruct the people to use the sidewalk if there is no sidewalk in the first place? Are they crowds careful study and not simply abrupt and violent shouting operations. What we need are rational, widely consulted and well-thought-out policies, not senseless schemes.

—CARLMARC KINDOYA,
public information officer,
Anak ng Bayan Youth Party,
11-A Yangco Ave., Barangay San Isidro, Subic, Quezon City

War vs high cost of medicine

ALLOW me to bring to the attention of our concerned government officials the astronomical cost of medicines in the country.

This, I think, is a problem just as serious as the soaring prices of gasoline and other basic commodities because everyone—rich or poor—practically needs medicines.

Every time I go to a drugstore to buy drugs for me and my family, I feel like being robbed in broad daylight by both the drug manufacturers and the drugstore operators, who are definitely guilty of killing, at the expense of our hapless countrymen.

Who should be blamed for this? None other, the government must take full responsibility for this issue. How the Department of Trade and Industry and the Department of Health have been very insensitive to the problem simply drives me crazy. People are dying because they cannot afford the cost of medicines. This, the trade and health secretaries should answer.

The least that we expect from the DTI and DOH is an explanation as to why the cost of medicines has shot up beyond affordable levels. Sadly, both of them have chosen to remain silent on the issue.

Even our lawmakers, including our party-list representatives who are known to make noise at any given issue or opportunity, have turned a deaf ear on this issue, despite the outpourse of our people.

The chairpersons of the committees on health in the Senate and the House of Representatives should wake up and take the cudgels to, at the very least, investigate the problem.

I think it's high time that President Macapagal-Arroyo does something drastic to roll back these prices.

In my view, no less than a declaration of war versus the high cost of medicines is necessary to bring it back to affordable and realistic levels.

—FELLY C. ELEFE,
L. Rodriguez Boulevard,
Quezon City

DBM also to blame for NFA's losses

THE RECENT pronouncement of the Department of Budget and Management virtually blaming government-owned and -controlled corporations for our country's worsening budget deficit defies logic.

The National Food Authority, a GOCC, should not be blamed for the fiscal crisis, a product of the government's mismanagement of economic and financial policies and misplaced priorities.

The DBM is partly to blame for the NFA's losses. It is bad enough that only P900 million has been allotted as the NFA's annual budget in several years. Worse, the DBM has always been delayed in releasing the subsidy, prompting the NFA to borrow from banks at high interest rates in order to fulfill its duties.

The DBM was among those which thought of charging the NFA with unpaid tariffs: a ridiculous scheme in which a government agency (BOC) pays another (Bureau of Customs) so "money" (for production of subsidy, which, in the first place, are not the making of the NFA. While the NFA paid Customs a staggering P7.6 billion, a superficial portion of Customs' revenue, it suffered the same amount, P7.6 billion, in losses, plus hundreds of millions in interest payments at rates guaranteed by the DBM.

The DBM statement is obviously a prelude to privatize GOCC functions and lessen the government's role in providing basic and essential services. Interestingly enough, the statement is consistent with the recommendations of multilateral financial institutions... World Bank, International Monetary Fund, Asian Development Bank and USAID.

The DBM statement is also a prelude to the implementation of Executive Order 366 directing the streamlining and restructuring of government agencies. EO 366 is anti-poor: it circumscribes the services of tenure of hundreds of thousands of ordinary government workers. The reorganization or privatization of the NFA alone will render an estimated 11,000 employees in the agency jobless and will mean the end for the NFA's direct rice market intervention, the decoupling of its regulatory and marketing functions and the dismantling of its exclusive authority to import rice to answer rice production shortfalls.

The DBM is actually to blame for the rice production downfall in 2003 and 2004 for reducing the Department of Agriculture's budget for rice production, which is considered the most important economic activity in our country. Rice production contributed 36 percent to agriculture's growth in 2004. It employs more than six million workers.

What ought to be done, therefore, is for the NFA's mandate to be strengthened and its functions further expanded for vigorous market participation. The strengthening of the NFA as the government's arm in ensuring food security—not some ill-advised reconciliation or privatization plan that only serves as a virus rather than a cure to the disease—is clearly our answer to poverty alleviation.

—ROMAN R. SANCHEZ,
national president,
National Food Authority Employees Association (NFEA),
10 Mahogany Bldg.,
L. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue, Quezon City

Life goes on

WHAT embarrassment we as a Filipino are undergo like Ate Angie of Bgos City (PDI, 1/8/05) who reflect their self-righteousness on the Christmas page of the Inquirer. Angie dismissed everyone who took part in the New Year's Eve party in Makati as drunken revelers who had the least care about the recent disasters in Asia.

I was there with my family and my friends and I felt insulted by his sweeping comments. I would like to tell Angie that our family and my friends in attendance were not the revelers of the Ruth Rondo in Quezon. When we learned about the tsunamis and the thousands of victims, we said prayers for them.

We went to Makati to welcome the New Year, safe from fireworks while enjoying a concert and a fireworks show. Ever Angie came to the conclusion that all the revelers were drunk except me, since he was in Bgos. Your newspaper said: 10,000 people were there with us, but was there any incident of violence attributed to drinking? None. Did Angie want us to cancel the New Year's Eve celebrations? It looks that way to me.

Angie seems to lay claim to being the only one sensitive in his surrounding. I dare him to tell us what he did when he learned about the flash floods and the tsunamis. And how did he celebrate New Year's Day? Cloistered in his room watching CNN and crying over the deaths in Aceh or with beer and lechon kawali?

We commiserate with the victims of the disasters here in our country and abroad, but life goes on for the survivors and for the rest of us. I suggest Angie also give a life of his own.

—ARSAIS SAAVEDRA,
2748 Ramon subdivision,
Barangay Poblacion,
Makati City

If you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the management of issues and policies by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Sgt. Esguerra Avenue, Makati City or Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-0783, 897-0784, or e-mail reader@inquirer.com.ph.

Written opinions to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

tanong ng Bayan

ABC

Singil sa kuryente, dapat bang taasan?

Text na!

NOTICE TO BOTULINUM TOXIN TYPE A USERS

BFAD Registered BTXA

Non-BFAD Registered "Chinese" Botulinum Toxin
(Reference: Hugh Source Inc/ TLAC)

BTXA

BeBotox

Amazing

Botulinum

Botox 2

Xi

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO THE PUBLIC THAT BTXA BRAND OF "CHINESE" BOTULINUM TOXIN TYPE A IS THE ONLY BFAD REGISTERED BOTULINUM TOXIN MADE IN CHINA. THIS WILL ASSURE THE HIGH QUALITY AND RELIABLE "CHINESE" BOTULINUM TOXIN PRODUCT.

ASIAN CLEAR SKIN DERMATOLOGICALS, INC. IS THE EXCLUSIVE DISTRIBUTOR OF THE BTXA BRAND. WE WISH TO INFORM THE PUBLIC THAT WE ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR WHATEVER EFFECTS THAT PATIENTS MAY EXPERIENCE AS CONSEQUENCE OF USING OTHER BRANDS OF BOTULINUM TOXIN TYPE A BEING PASSED ON AS CHINA MADE.

INFORMATIONS REACHING US REVEAL THAT THESE OTHER BRAND NAMES COME FROM UNKNOWN ORIGIN AND UNIDENTIFIED MANUFACTURER AND SOURCES AND PASSED ON AS OUR BRAND.

OUR LEGAL COUNSEL IS NOW STUDYING AND PREPARING APPROPRIATE LEGAL ACTIONS AGAINST PARTIES WHO ARE AND MAY BE FOUND RESPONSIBLE FOR SUCH MISREPRESENTATION AND ILLEGAL DISTRIBUTION OF UNREGISTERED AND UNTESTED DRUG PRODUCTS.

Asian Clear Skin Dermatologicals, Inc

Across the NATION

Vigilantes kill 5 in one day in Davao

COMPLETE with their watchtags, 111 policemen from the Police Regional Office–Caraga prepare for briefing upon arrival at Camp Macabalan in Tarlac City. The reserve is to augment local police force in maintaining peace and order in Hacienda Luisita where workers refuse to obey the return-to-work order issued by the Department of Labor and Employment. AP/LYNDON BERMAS

DAVAO CITY—A president of a resident association, two gang members, a laborer, and a cockfight aficionado were killed by suspected vigilantes in separate attacks here Saturday.

The deaths bring to 50 the total number of vigilante-related killings in the city this month.

Police identified the latest victim as Roland Tacder, 33, of Sta. Rosario, Buhangin District.

Tacder and his companion, Edwardo Gonzalvo, had just left the Buhangin workers arena along the Diversion Road at around 9:45 p.m. and were about to board their motorcycle when an unidentified man approached Owen and shot Tacder twice.

Although wounded, Tacder managed to run, but the gunman caught up with him and finished him off, police said.

At 5:30 p.m., Manuel Ibin Jaraulon was also shot and killed along Sta. Ana Avenue.

Bienbenido, 33, a worker of Sulpicio Lines and Shipping Co., was on his way home when two men on board a motorcycle approached him behind Gaisa and shot him twice.

Bhutanpanding Dilna, 30, president of the Muslim-Christian Workers Association, of Bankerohan, Barangay 6-A, was killed at around 7 a.m.

Dilna was sitting on a bench when two men riding on a motorcycle shot him.

SPO1 Jay Ruebert Plaza, Ma-a Police police investigator, said Dilna's killing could have something to do with his position as workers association president.

Plaza said it was "unsure" that the victim was involved in illegal drugs.

At 12:05 a.m., Jeffrey del Rio, 24, and Lyndon Lachenia, 38, alleged members of the teenage DSB (Disturbing Bigfit Boys) Gang, were shot dead along Soliel Street, Barangay Wilfredo Aquino, Agdao District.

Reports reaching the Sta. Ana police station said the two, along with other gang members, were walking on the street when two unidentified men alighted from a Nissan van and shot them. Anthony S. Alfiado, PIW Mindanao Bureau

Davao workers protest ₱14 wage hike

DAVAO CITY—Workers are calling "taksil" the recent ₱14 increase in minimum wage approved by the Regional Tripartite Wage and Productivity Board (RTWPB) even as militant groups planned to organize a series of protests to hasten the passage of a ₱125 legislated across-the-board increase in Congress.

The board enacted a new wage order Tuesday, mandating the increase in minimum wage in the Davao region, which covers the cities of Davao, Digos, the Island Garden of Samal, Panabo and Tagum, the three Davao provinces, and Compostela Valley.

Ma. Elenita Tango, regional director of the Department of Labor and Employment and wage board chair, said the order would raise the minimum wage of non-agricultural and service workers in the region to ₱289 in urban areas and ₱285 in rural areas, and the wage level of agricultural workers to ₱199 and ₱197 in urban and rural areas, respectively.

But while the management sector representatives in the board approved satisfied with the increase, the two labor representatives disagreed.

Virginia Cuenca of the Federation of Free Workers and Jorge Alegados of the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP) called the minimum wage adjustment "grossly inadequate," and was below the living wage in the region.

The TUCP earlier petitioned for a ₱47 increase in wages.

Omar Sumayan, secretary general of the Kilusang Mayo Uno in Southern Mindanao called the ₱14 increase a "token" and "insult," and promised to mount protests to pressure Congress to legislate the ₱125 wage increase.

"It only shows their ignorance about the plight of workers, and justifies our call to abolish the wage board," Sumayan told the reporters.

"We will not accept an increase below ₱125," he added.

Jeppe Sumida, Bagong Minimong Makibaset spokesperson for Southern Mindanao, said the real value of current wages had been eroded by 19 percent since 2003, and the cost of living was now ₱526 per day.

The Union left calling for the ₱125 wage increase is on its third and final reading, but House and other militant groups said they would launch mass actions for its immediate passage.

Businessmen who at at the RTWPB hailed that the ₱125 across-the-board wage increase might kill small and medium businesses in the region. Gerardine A. Lacorte, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Luisita situation a security threat with NPA infiltration, says Army

TARLAC CITY—A military official said the situation inside Hacienda Luisita threatened national security with the "infiltration and support" given by the Communist Party of the Philippines to the ongoing workers' strike there.

Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino, commander of the military's Southern Luzon Command, said the CPP and its armed wing, the New People's Army, "have used the Luisita situation as one of their stepping stones for bigger action."

Tolentino said they recognized the right of the workers to express their grievances but asked them to police their ranks because the CPP/NPA "is taking advantage of the situation."

"We are not for any company, we are also there to protect the workers," he said.

Asked if the security forces would prompt military officials to send soldiers inside the hacienda, Tolentino said they would exercise due process if there help was sought by the police.

A report presented by Malacañan officials in response to, on Saturday said the sugar workers' strike at the Cojuangco family-owned Hacienda Luisita was "a handiwork of the CPP/NPA and a culmination of long months of reorganization and propaganda work to get the workers riled up to arise against the government."

The groups, the military said, were "capitalizing on the prevailing unrest in [Hacienda Luisita] to use it as a staging point to jumpstart a series of protest actions [to] discredit and undermine the government."

The report said the military reached this conclusion through, among others, "field reports" and documents seized during an encounter in Nueva Ecija last year.

In this "grand design," the military accused the CPP, NPA and National Democratic Front of "orchestrating" the labor unrest at Luisita and the developments that followed.

Tolentino said the groups "were pressing the right buttons, capitalizing on the prevailing economic and political conditions, much like what they did during the EDSA I and Mendiola bombing."

Tension remained high in Hacienda Luisita as striking workers braced themselves for another violent dispersal following the end of the five-day reprieve given by the labor department for them to return to work on Jan. 20.

Some striking workers defied the return-to-work order issued by Labor Secretary Marianito Roque on Jan. 14 but the picket lines remained quiet since Thursday.

The workers, however, gathered stones and sticks and armed themselves with slingshots to prepare for what could be another violent confrontation with policemen. Jo Marvilous Clemente, Ronald Arabe and Ronald Bacani, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Lucena senior citizens lament move to scrap drug discounts

LUCENA CITY—The president of this city's senior citizens organization lamented the court action by drugstore owners wanting to contest the legality of the law that grants them 20-percent discount on all medicine purchases.

"Why would they contest it when it was primarily intended to alleviate the hardship of most senior citizens? asked Amanda Santisteve, president of the Lucena City Senior Citizens Association. "That Senior Citizens Act of 2008 is already a law, passed by Congress and signed by the President," he stressed.

He pointed out that almost all drugstores in the city were not honoring the law mandated discount on medicines for senior citizens. He said some of them only give measly discounts from as low as two percent.

"Now, they want to totally abolish it. How about the welfare of the millions of senior citizens across the country, most of (whom) are poor and could barely afford the high cost of medicines?" he lamented.

He said he himself was now using his senior citizen's identification card in his regular purchase of medicines. "It's no use as far as the purchase of drugs is concerned," he said.

"But if the country's legislators would abolish the law, we can't do anything except to follow, he said. "But they should have pity on us," he lamented.

On Thursday, raised drugstore owners in the country went to the Supreme Court to stop the implementation of the law providing 20 percent discount to all senior citizens.

The petitioners were Carlos Superdrug Advance Drug, City Pharmacy, Botica de la Salle and Leyte Norte Well Drug stores. Carlos Super Drug is based here in Lucena.

The group claimed that the law was forcing small druggists to increase the prices of their products so the government was reimbursing them only 32 percent of the discount they give.

When the reporter asked how many percent they give to senior citizens in every drug purchase, the sales clerk at the Carlos Super Drug said, "three percent for branded medicines and if all the requirements are complete and only 2 percent if the requirement is not complete." Arlie T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

RP jungolfers departing for Asian pre-qualifying

SUPERB: boys grade school promotion

THE PHILIPPINES will be eyeing one of two slots to be disputed in the Junior World Team championship during Pre-qualifying stage starting tomorrow at the Orna Resort Golf & Country Club in Malacca, Malaysia.

Angulf standout Matthew Manotoc, Gino Sinerji, JJ Castanar and Chris James Mamuyac left yesterday to compete in the multi-nation competition that will pit them against the best of Asia.

Coach Herding is head of the delegation while Baby Salinas and Tommy Manotoc, father of Matthew, are also with the team as officials.

The team is competing under the aegis of the Junior Golf Association of the Philippines as part of its program to provide exposure experience to the country's top talents.

MANOTOC

The Filipino will try to secure an all-expense paid trip to the tournament proper slated in Japan.

A LIFETIME GIFT...HAIR TRANSPLANTATION!

Remember how your hair used to look? How imagine your life again with a head full of hair. A groom, it's permanent and only maintenance is a monthly haircut. Dr. Pineda uses the latest technology with state-of-the-art micrograft to achieve a natural looking hairline "do natural as it used to be"! Andrew G. Pineda, M.D. is a full time Beverly Hills trained hair transplant specialist who can help you achieve your dream. CALL NOW!

The Pineda Hair Clinics

Ateneans control 3 divisions of golfest

TAGAYTAY—Ateneo took control of college play and boys elementary while the Grenvilla and Jubilee academy of La Salle were in a tight duel for the boys high school plum in the four-day of the 4th Samsung Interscholastic golf championships at the Tagaytay Highlands Golf and Country Clubhouse.

Xavier Ateneo scored 30 Stableford points, Coley Kintanar had 27 and Mark de Tan 24 for a day's total of 81 that pushed the Ateneo 1 team up by nine over La Salle. Ateneo 2 was in third at 58.

The Lasalle-based golfers, going 21 each from Caroline Chan and Alex Galvez Jnr., ran also up by six over Miriam, the defending combined college-high school division and pulled away by a hefty margin in boys elementary.

Marcel Pesur delivered the goods for the Ateneo grade schoolers, coming up with a 27. Reader Rabbi batted four up with 24 and Brandela Paz added 23 for a 74 total, 20 ahead of LSGH. Elizabeth Owen, the surprise winner in the third edition at Valley last November, was 9 points adrift at 65.

LSGH, however, banked on Mike Dy (32) and Marco Oliva (30) to post 76 for a one-shot edge over UA Asbel which was led by Janine Tambunting with 28.

Brenda Learning Center's Pauline Sotto and Andre Simon scored 25 and 19, respectively, to lead St. Paul-Pasig's Sweety Mendoza and Mary Mercedes by seven in girls grade school.

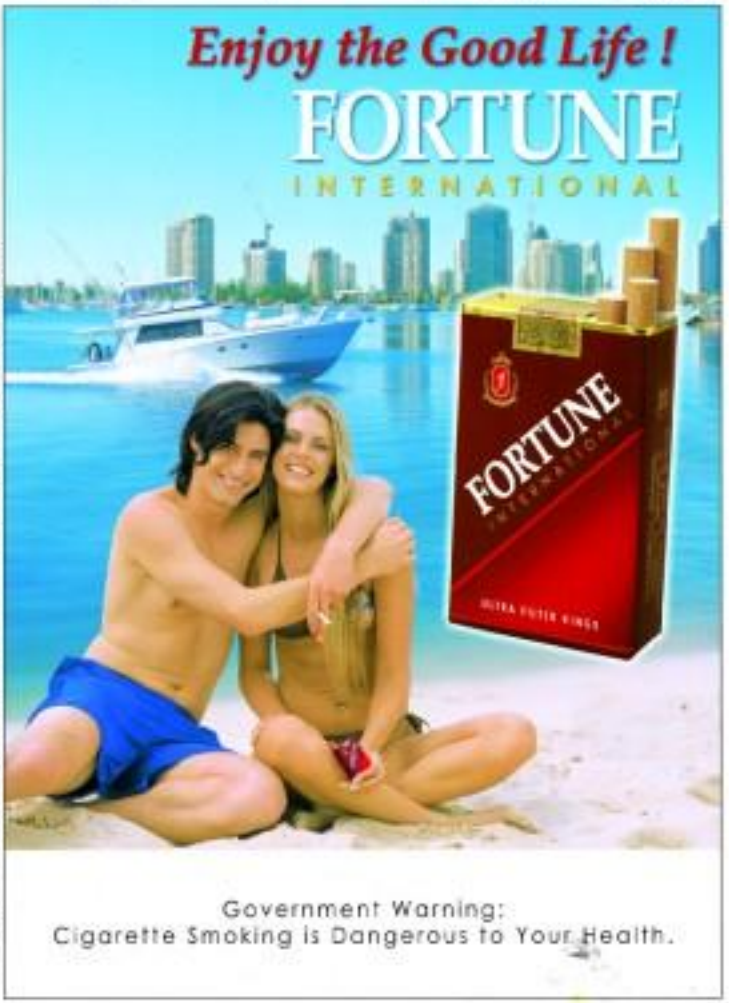
The contests shifts to the adjacent Tagaytay Midlands course for the last two rounds Saturday and Monday.

Yat led all scorers in a record field of 121 entries from 25 schools in Metro Manila and nearby cities with his 36 points, leading Tambunting by two on the individual race.

Aaron Dimabuyu of Global City Innovative College scored 31 to inch ahead of Lachlan 35 boys college by a scant point in boys college individual while Crystal Esperal of Las Piñas High (37), Cara Medrigan of Miriam (28) and Bobbie de Villa of ICP International (31) took the top three positions in high school college. Weber Sequeil of Caldela during passed Nicole Ty Tan in boys grade school and Mendoza (26) led Sotto (25) in girls elementary.

In the special division, Nexus Fory of European International School was leading in the special division with for 36, good for a two-points lead over reigning Junior World champ JB Gonzales.

The tournament is being supported by Tokyo Tokyo Great Japanese, MSC Beverages, KIA by Century Diahatsu, Rudy Project, Coppertone Sports, Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines, Bogie Travel clubs and bags Jun 88-2, Wave 89.1, Magic 89.9, 99.5 RT, 103.5 K-Lite and Killer Bee.



ROUNDUP

Beri in Tuguegarao

TUGUEGARAO CITY—Residents in this northern city braced for torrential rain following temperatures in Cagayan Valley that fell to single digits for the first in January and recorded a chill that is nearly matched Feb. considered a February low. **Jovendan Cabbat, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau**

No water rate hike

CEBU CITY—Policymakers of the government-owned provincial water utility, company has ordered off a planned increase in water rates beginning this month. Oscar Pahuyigan, board chair of the Metropolitan Cebu Water District (MCWD), said the city rate increase was not a done deal and considering the current status of the upgrading of the water delivery systems. Pahuyigan said it was not wise to impose the increase as consumers have yet to enjoy the benefits of the systems-upgrading projects. The MCWD raised water rates by 10% in March and April last year to offset the higher consolidation of its plants to make water from P18.00 a 30-cubic-meter minimum consumption to P19.80 in seven years. But the rate adjustment program was called off following widespread protests by consumers who complained of bad service. **Ryan Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau**

New congregation head

CLARKS CITY—The new head of the Children of Mary Immaculate Congregation Philippines is a native of Cabanatuan City. Fr. Pureza Bernabe said in his appointment as the new Order superior came on Sunday, his 61st birthday. He replaces Fr. Federico Labagala, who has been assigned in Rome as Asia-Oceania general counselor to the congregation's Generalate. Currently, the provincial of the Order's Notre Dame University, Nena said his election was an honor after candidates for the high-ranking post underwent the Order's "election process" through consultations and "casting of a "silver vote." **Charlie Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau**

Vehicles for cops

CITY OF SAN JOSE DEL MONTE—The city government distributed 12 vehicles to the city police station to be used as mobile patrols and police service cars. Mayor Angelito Specimen endorsed the release of more than P7 million from the city coffers to buy 12 Toyota Vios cars. Chief Supt. Rowland Albano, Inspector Lance Jerald Encinas, received the vehicles on behalf of the city police on Monday. The vehicles are equipped with hand-held radio units, computers and sirens. **Carmelita Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk**

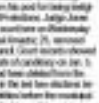
1 dies in Cebu fire

CEBU CITY—A man was charred to death in Tuesday's fire that razed six houses in Sitio Mambaling, this city. Edgar Montes, 54, was trapped inside his room on the second floor of his mother's home in Mambaling. Barangay Mambaling Fire Marshal Rodrigo Tumangan said Montes's 4-year-old daughter, Maymay, at the living room and brought her to safety. It was not immediate what caused the fire, which started at Montes's house at 10:30 a.m. **Jhunnex Napallacar, PDI Visayas Bureau**

Fake NBI agent charged

CITY OF DAVAO—A man who introduced himself as Narciso Lopez, allegedly a National Bureau of Investigation-confirmed agent, was arrested by NBI-Cotabato agents at about 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, at the DAVELI Restaurant in Barangay Tulang Dam. NBI-Cotabato office chief Mario Rillo identified the suspect as Joseph Ian Lopez, alias Bebs, who tried to extort from Sandra Bautista, 33, of Barangay San Antonio Ilum, Matalam, who works in Davao. said Bebs had told her that her papers were fake. threatened her and asked for 2% local government money corresponding to P400,000. The NBI said Bautista denied the complaints, claiming she was a legitimate businessman. It kept in view at the provincial jail charged with extortion of money and malversa. **Mahlaeva Wadi, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau**

Free housing for 200



SIBUTAD CITY—The city government and the Zamboanga Peninsula Development Bank (ZPDB) have chosen 200 families from as many barangays that will be resettled this year. Mayor Amelia Navarro said P3.5 million was set aside for the project. The assistance will be given free title and houses in Barangay Dabiduhan, Ward. Another 100 families are being selected for the second batch. **Gilbert Vargas Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau**

Court ousts councilor

CEBU CITY—The Regional Trial Court of Mandaue, Pangasinan, has ousted from his post for being absent for 6 months this May 15, 2004 resolution. Judge Jaime Contains of the original trial court here on Wednesday ordered Councilor Ben Mikael Amante, 35, removed from his position as Municipal Council. Court records showed that Amante filed his certificate of candidacy on Jan. 5, 2004. However, the court had been informed Councilor Amante failed for fifteen months in the last two elections between 2004. Amante filed a petition before the municipal trial court on Dec. 30, 2003 to his appointment as a voter, which the court granted. But Estrada said that he failed to file the SOCE, prior election period from Dec. 2, 2004 deadline for the filing of the certificate of candidacy. Amante feigned the case for councilor, but the did not meet the requirement that he must be a registered voter at that time for that SOCE. Estrada said. **Peter Jo Julian, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau**

Members rush to GSIS-Naga office for e-card

By Juan Escandor Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

NAGA CITY—Since Jan. 7, the office of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) here has been unusually full of members applying for e-card, although they still have up to May 7 to apply and be issued the document.

"It's the initial deposit of P1,000 that made the members rush to apply for the e-card even though they have enough time to do it within a four-month period," Bella Salvatus, GSIS Luzon and Clarin Division chief in Naga, point-ed out.

Salvatus said the initial deposit was not a giveaway but a loan that a member would pay at P166 per month for 36 months.

The e-card project was first implemented among the employees of LGU in July last year.

It replaces the old ID system, serves as an automated teller machine (ATM) card, and can be used as a credit card in key commercial centers.

Salvatus said the e-card system had worked so efficiently in validating the number of transactions that the GSIS management decided to expand its coverage to all active members last year.

The e-card system is a joint undertaking of the Union Bank of the Philippines and the GSIS, she said. Answering an accusation hogging into and registering at the websites of the two institutions, she added.

Salvatus said the rush to get hold of the e-card came in the heels of complaints from members about the alleged slow processing of their applications by the GSIS.

But she said the GSIS had already outsourced the active members to claim their e-cards at the Robin Canlaun Inc Institute in Legaspi City, the designated center where the e-card making and validating machines have been installed.

To apply for e-cards, GSIS members are advised to submit applications in their respective offices.

The GSIS office in Naga serves some 30,000 active members in the Bicol Commuters provinces and the cities of Naga and Iriga.

While the GSIS office in Legaspi covers members from Albay and Camarines, the office in Sorsogon City takes care of members from Sorsogon and Masbate.

Salvatus said the respective offices had been tasked with pre-validating the personal database of active member-applicants. The clearance will qualify them for e-card issuance, she said.

She said one of the most important requirements was the absence of arrears payable in the GSIS within the three-month period upon the filing of applications.

At the end of the four-month period applications allotted for Bicol, the GSIS members could only apply and be issued the e-cards through the main office in Manila.

Salvatus said the e-card system improved efficiency and was convenient to users because all loan releases could now be withdrawn through electronic system.

"Without bringing cash, one can shop and pay the e-card in the cashier to swipe on the electronic system to pay all the commodities bought," she said.

Some people have, however, complained of difficulty in getting application forms for the e-card, and having to secure the documents through the internet.

"ALTA PRESYON" KILLS. Don't be the next VICTIM!
Quit heat, safe and accurate Blood Pressure readings with
MEDITEC
mercury drug

SHARP
IMAGER
The Only Digital Copier You Need
Growing risks?
As your business grows, so do the risks involved.
Keep your company secrets safe with the Sharp Data Security Kit (DSK). The first to receive a Common Criteria validation worldwide, the Sharp DSK erases and encrypts company data that is automatically stored in your copier's hard disk each and every time a document is scanned, copied or printed. This way you can prevent vital information from getting into the wrong hands. Further protect your growing business with SharpdeskTM, a revolutionary document management system that drastically streamlines workflow ensuring optimum productivity and helping you sustain growth.
Share, load for your business.
e Copy
8837 Zobel Roxas Street, Pulanlan, Makati City
Call Center: 525-9911 loc. 104/105
Copier Sales Fax: 525-0860
Service, Parts & Genuine Consumables Fax: 525-9870
Exclusive and authorized Master Distributor of SHARP genuine consumables & original parts.

4 DENR men hurt in attack in Tarlac

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Four employees of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources were wounded when their group was ambushed on Saturday by armed men reportedly engaged by a suspected illegal logger in San Jose town in Tarlac.

Perfecto Bacalla, chief of the Environmental Management Bureau of the environmental and natural resources office in Tarlac City, identified the victims as Senator Benny Tumaliguesan, forest rangers Salvador Isabel and Salvador Principe and Barangay Kalikasan councilman Wenanico Cayetano.

They were taken to the Tarlac Provincial Hospital in Tarlac City.

Mahogany

Bacalla, who was reached by phone from the hospital, said Principe and Cayetano were still in serious condition. Both of them suffered bullet wounds in different parts of their bodies.

Bacalla said the incident happened at about 7 a.m. after his team received reports from Barangay Sapang Kubo.

The men, he said, were heading to Cabanatuan about 1,000 board feet of freshly cut mahogany lumber.

Gunfire

He said the men ran away, leaving the DENR personnel, who were riding in a Toyota Tamaraw van, to pursue them.

Bacalla said his group were put with gunfire when their vehicle reached a bend on the road. Director Orejana, PDI Central Luzon Desk

3 suspected meningo cases reported in Mt. Province

PARTICIPANTS show their moves during the street dancing festival at Mava Crisologo Avenue in Vigan City Saturday.

Vigan celebrates longganiza fest

VIGAN CITY — You're never in North ever Locos are making fury while Ilocos City's tourism suffers because of The Hunterpreneurial stars. For the Ilocos Sur City, it is a case of making longganiza (native sausage).

Vigan's longganiza festival held on Saturday drew thousands more visitors, compared to last year's staging of the festival.

Mayor Ferdinand Medina said many of the tourists and participants at various attractions called the festival easy for the festival fans were supposed to go to Baguio for the weekend but chose to come here instead.

About 20,000 residents and tourists lined Vigan's main streets, including the historic Calle Crisologo district, to watch dancers wearing replicas of Vigan longganiza as fashion accessories.

Medina said only about 10,000 people attended last year's festival.

The longganiza festival marked the start of the festivals in Northern Luzon, during the forthcoming festivals in the region are the Panagbenga or Baguio Flower Festival, the tobacco festival in Candon City and Pistay Dayat (sea festival) in Pangasinan.

Members of the United Architects of the Philippines, who usually hold their conventions in Baguio, were among the tourists in the area. Medina also said orderly hours in the city increased recently.

Vigan also exposes to attract tourists from Taiwan and China for the Chinese New Year festivities is really necessary.

"They usually just come here, take a look and leave," Medina said.

He said the plan was to give this particular set of tourists a package that would point out that the city used to be a Chinese enclave before becoming the Spanish encomienda (hereditary of the town).

Medina said the festival is a big boost in giving recognition to the Vigan longganiza, the most popular product of this city.

Part of this year's festivities is the longganiza packaging contest. Medina said the city government would adopt the winning package for its tourism industry.

He said the city is planning to fi nance a food mill because backyard longganiza have eroded net complete with commercial facilities due to expensive animal feed.

The other crucial ingredients in the making of Vigan longganiza — Ilocos vinegar and garlic — are also getting a boost from the increased demand, he said.

Medina said before the tourists slump in August, Vigan was just a tourist spot, not a tourist destination.

The Vigan Heritage Village is part of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's Heritage List.

"We plan to make Vigan as also native convention city," Medina said.

Fourth Estate Inc. and Ecotech Building Inc. PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY — There were cases of possible meningococcemia disease were reported in Mt. Province last week, according to Dr. Lo-ongaing Villa, chief of the emerging and reemerging diseases unit of the Department of Health.

Villa said the cases were reported on Jan. 14 and 19 and involved patients in different towns of Mt. Province. They were confined in hospitals in the area.

Villa said the patients showed symptoms of meningococcemia disease (meningococcemia and meningococcal meningitis) but doctors and DOH personnel were still confirming if the patients were indeed suffering from the fatal disease.

DOH records showed that the Cordillera, including Baguio, recorded 43 cases of meningococcal cases and meningococcal disease.

Baguio recorded 10 cases since October, 11 of which were recorded this month. Villa said the cases in Mt. Province do not yet have laboratory confirmation.

An international team from the World Health Organization and the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network were expected to go to Mt. Province and Baguio to look at the cases and see if the bacteria causing the meningococcal disease share the same strain found in Baguio.

Villa said symptoms for meningococcemia are abrupt onset of fever, reddish-purple petechiae (rashes and spots), and drop in blood pressure or shock. Symptoms for meningococcal meningitis are fever, headache, vomiting, stiff neck, discomfort when looking at light and drowsiness.

Villa urged Baguio residents not to be complacent as the number of cases continues to drop.

"Even if we are seeing a decline in the number of cases, we still cannot be complacent. We must continue to be vigilant," Villa said.

Dr. Florence Henry, chief of the Baguio Health Department, reiterated that fruits, vegetables and flowers sold in the city are safe from meningococcemia causing bacteria.

She reminded consumers that the decline in the cases of meningococcal diseases there only on business and not on inanimate things and animals. Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Kiss fest in Baguio in February

BAGUIO CITY — Four tourism and local officials to do everything to help this city recover in reputation as one of the country's top destinations following the meningococcemia scare.

In February, the month of love and hearts, tourism officials will stage a kissing contest and a mass wedding involving couples who promise that the city is safe from the disease.

"We are planning a mass wedding, to highlight Feb. 14 and make Baguio the city where lovers are as it once was," said Purificacion Molintas, Department of Tourism Cordillera director.

Molintas said the kissing contest, which would be opened to newly weds, would help project the fact that meningococcemia should not be feared.

The disease is spread through prolonged and direct contact with an infected person or through respiratory droplets released through coughing and sneezing.

Some members of the Hotels and Restaurants Association of Baguio said offer discounts in hotel room rates for newly wed couples and other visitors, Molintas said.

Peter Ng, owner of Hotel Supreme, said he would offer a 50-percent discount in his hotel as a gift package to newly wed couples and visitors.

Molintas said the DOT is expecting shopping malls and restaurants to also offer discounts to their patrons to attract tourists and residents.

Mayor Bendix Bautista said three special packages and more are "thanksgiving offers" as the city marked the effects of meningococcemia.

The said many employers in tourism-related establishments have gone on leave the to Wigan city drop in tourist arrivals have nothing, he said.

A Department of Health advisory assured residents and visitors that there is a low risk of developing the disease from activities like going to the city market, resort and festivities.

It said daily normal activities in the city should not be disrupted and there was no reason to have travel to the city.

Tourism advised Molintas that the annual Baguio Flower Festival or Panagbenga would proceed as planned next month.

The mayor said they were confident tourists would still come and participate in the festival, a major crowd-drawer in the city.

"We are getting calls even if we have doubts, like Massachusetts, Saguaro and [other parts of] Central Luzon for their participation in the parade and other activities," Bautista said.

The local government of Baguio, however, will also celebrate the Spring Festival on Feb. 11, with the famous Chinese dragon and lion dances as the event's highlight, he said.

"Spring means a new beginning. This will mark the new beginning for Baguio. It is very symbolic. The solar calendar, the New Year, started very badly. But this will change with the Chinese New Year," he said. Jimmy Antonio, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Residents belie claims on Lipa dump

LIPA CITY — The city's open dump has already been closed, more drug to Lipa City administrator Ordinio Marvin Dijan Jr.

Dijan's statement was made in reaction to the plan of Earth Day Network Philippines, an environment group headed by Senator Loren Legarda concerning Ilidora Garcia, to sue Mayor Vilma Santos-Recto if she failed to fulfill her earlier promise to close the city's open dump.

"We closed the San Isidro dump on Jan. 3," Dijan said. "That closure had been planned months ago. September last year based on R.A. 9003 (Ecc Solid Waste Management Act of 2000).

Dijan added that the city government even held a concert for its land drive to raise money to buy equipment for waste segregation, composting, and recycling.

"The San Isidro dump is now clear and under rehabilitation because that was where SU's plan, together with the environmental groups here in Lipa City," Dijan added.

A resident of Barangay San Isidro, however, said the dumpsite has yet been closed.

"Although there were pamphlets that were circulated by the city hall in December saying that it would be closed, no action has been done to close it. The barangay is supposed to be responsible for the garbage collection but since they haven't not really seen it, Sasbuchaya ito ang ti-pat (nothing has been done yet, Lipa still stinks)."

Another source said garbage collection has stopped since December 2010 after the city hall announcement that the residents should segregate their garbage.

"We are segregated our garbage. But the garbage collectors have not collected since December 2010," the source said.

"And have seen there be effective segregation when there are no facilities in Lipa for waste segregation?" the source added.

He said most residents of Lipa have resorted to burying their garbage, which could result in water contamination. Others have gone to open burning, which is polluting the air.

"Others have solved their garbage problem by taking their garbage to their workplaces because their companies have garbage collectors," he added. Mel Alagano Lairo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Environment exec who issued tree-cutting permit suspended

By Jael Arriola
PDI Visayas Bureau

MANSILINGAN — A local environment official here who issued the controversial permits to cut hardwood species had been suspended by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Elpidio Simon, the Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer (Cenro) of this city, was ordered suspended effective Jan. 17 according to Southern Leyte Rep. Roger Mercado.

Mercado said he sought for Simon's suspension as the latter is a subject of a congressional inquiry for issuing a Private Land Timber Permit in November last year despite a court log ban imposed on the province following the historic flooding and landslides that hit Southern Leyte and other areas in Southern Leyte in December 2003 that left at least 164 people dead.

Mercado said he had asked the DENR to suspend Simon until the House Committee on Environment, chaired by Isabela Rep. Joseph Bernas, completes its investigation.

Simon had been summoned to appear before the committee on Wednesday, Mercado said. Also invited to the committee hearing were Senator Ciso Marcos Jacinto Mercado, provincial police director Senior Supt. Alfredo Tabanticon, Army's 43rd Infantry Battalion commander Lt. Col. Raul Dalusio, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources officer Rodolfo Lara and Barangay Governor Chali Lucia Bilayron.

The congressional inquiry stemmed from Mercado's privilege speech on Jan. 18 calling for the investigation of Simon and on deliver the policy on provincial executive to oversee land.

Simon was in her annex after he is issued a permit to cut eight hardwood trees to construct landowner Jacinto Magallanes, on behalf of hostiles evangelist Silvio Cepeda, in Barangay Canelare, which the Water and Government Bureau has declared a calamity area after it was flooded sending that as mudslides and illegal logging.

He charged Magallanes 727,800 in permit fees. The permit was issued Nov. 19, 2004 with an expiration date of Dec. 20.

Simon had explained that the cutting of trees were had been allowed again by then Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun.

He said it was true that the cutting of trees were were prohibited again after landslides and mudslides struck the three Southern Leyte towns on Panaon Island on Dec. 1-9, 2003, which killed about 150 people.

But when [Environment] Secretary Michael Defensor assumed [office], he lifted the ban on the cutting of cacao trees, Simon claimed.

Mercado, however, said Gozun was by. "Secretary Defensor has issued a total log ban in the aftermath of the calamity in Leyte provinces in December and his issuance of the permit was unlicensed by Defensor's memorandum addressed to all DENR regional and provincial offices," he said.

Photojournalist's murder suspect hurt in Jolo clash

ZAMBOANGA CITY — One of the suspects in the murder of photojournalist Jose Bong Lumanog has been wounded in a clash with government soldiers in Jolo, Sulu on Jan. 15.

Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Al berto Braganza said, who Sound member Abing Sahirul, one of those tagged as the gunmen in the killing of Lumanog on Nov. 12 last year, was wounded in an encounter with members of the Marine Battalion Landing Team 9 (MBLT9) in Jolo, Sulu.

"Since one of the killers is wounded, they cannot go far, we will more easily chase," the Southern chief added.

Meanwhile, veteran photojournalist Rene Lumanog, Gene Boyd's father, has requested NBI Director General Nonnatus de Rojas to conduct a "parallel investigation" on the killing of his son.

Reyes told Lumanog and local media here to give the police ample time to solve the case.

He said the NBI will conduct a "parallel investigation" upon the request of the family to augment the speedy solution of the case.

Another attack

In Lagonoy City, two still unidentified suspects fired shots at a radio station, wounded a former Daraf and 2 Passerel Inmate of local town in Camarines Norte, on Friday morning.

Eddy Abraham, Bombo Radyo station's security guard, said he heard several gunshots at around 1 a.m. and saw two men immediately leaving the scene riding a red motorcycle as he got out.

He shot one man's ride to get the license plate of the vehicle.

The wounding body hit by Chief police chief Antonio Perez, recovered an empty shells of cal. 45 holders on the scene.

Murders

Per Commander Garcia, acting town police chief on the incident, said they were still looking for a motive for the attack.

"As of now we have no immediate suspect but we are thinking that the gun suspects we did on different magazine but it. Duri could have eschewed the suspect, or the motive could be personal," he added.

Garcia said the station recently exposed several anomalies in Camarines Norte, including the prevalence of illegal fruit game machines, the controversy involving some fiestas of Treasury employees and the distributorship filing of lawn of yen based of officers of the local government unit of Mercedes town from Jan. 11-14.

"That is the first time that our station become in target of harassment," Garcia said.

The National Union of Journalists of the Philippines has condemned the attacks on journalists and media entities.

The latest incident that the NUJP has was the burning of a broadcast van of the MBC-CBN on Jan. 11 in Mandalagang City.

Nobody was hurt in the incident, but the group called on the attack to take steps to prosecute possible attacks on its members.

Julie Alipala with a report from Joselle Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau and Jael D. Barcoso with report from Michael Aviance, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

TSUNAMIS are silhouetted as they watch a fire on Boracay Island Jan. 21. The fire's broke out at one of the stalls in Boracay's main market, which supplies almost all the 124 major hotels and resorts with fresh food, police said.

Pinoy worker reported missing in Saudi Arabia

A FILIPINO worker in Saudi Arabia has been reported missing and the Philippine government has alerted authorities in the border city on Riffeid in Manila and Dumaguete.

Emilio Lesaca's co-worker called the Philippine Embassy on Jan. 10 to report Lesaca missing, said Department of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Gilbert Asuque.

Lesaca, 40, works for a telecommunications company in Riyadh city. He has not been heard from his employer since asked him to pick up plane tickets about 40 km from their office on Jan. 11, Asuque said.

The car he was driving was also missing, Asuque said.

The embassy has informed the Saudi foreign ministry and police of the report, Asuque said.

"There are no leads at the moment," he said.

Lesaca's family in Davao City fears that he may have been abducted, 403-6389 information reported. No reason was given for their concern.

Filipino engineer Robert Tarcegay remains a hostage in Iraq after gunmen stormed a Saudi company's Baghdad compound on Nov. 1, abducting him, an American, a Nepalese and three Iraqis. Other captives were released later, but Tarcegay and the American are still in captivity.

Filipino diplomat Angelito Sayani and two other UN workers were kidnapped in Afghanistan's capital, Kabul, on Dec. 16. They were freed after negotiations. Afghan officials said the kidnappers were ethnic cousins; criminals or were working for a Taliban-linked group that claimed responsibility for the abductions.

On July, UN and Australian officials strongly criticized President Muscapal-Arroyo after she caved in to Iraqi hijackers' demands and withdrew a small group of Filipino peacekeepers early to secure the release of a Filipino truck driver. AP

Administration . . .

From page A1

fortified people could be dangerous to political stability and continuity and a double-headed weapon that could cut both ways, including his own neck.

Since Ms Arroyo was the foremost beneficiary of Edsa II, whose chief victim was President Joseph Estrada, who was deposed in the midst of his elected term by people power, her change of tone appears to have been dictated by the realization that if she continued to extol people power, she would be tooking the embers of popular discontent.

So, in an interview with dxEC and Net 25 minutes owned by Iglesia ni Cristo, which prior to the May election had been hostile in his review but supportive of Estrada, the President gave people power a new dose.

It was Net 25 which hosted noon-over the noon at Estrada after he had been charged with plunder and which transmitted agitation inflaming audio to attack Malacañang on May 1, 2001.

The more friendly relationship between the President and INC, which backed her in the May election, tilting the campaign in her favor, reflects the shifting narrow of political alliances that followed the election.

Shift in definition

In the interviews, Ms Arroyo called for a "new kind of people power" whose energy would be directed away from street action and toward support for her programs.

With this definition, the real meaning of people power, expressed by Edsa 1, has been changed and Ms Arroyo has even more so less accepted the prospective, held by many indepen. dent and nonpartisan quarters, that people power if overused and abused, could be synonymous to mob rule, usurp by the street and into constitutional processes of politics, leadership changes.

In gifting people power a new meaning that discounts its function as an instrument of political liberty—which was the spirit that inspired Edsa I—the President relieved the woman over camps that has plagued her since the May 1, 2000 storming of the Palace by the backers of her rivals opponents.

She seems fully aware that what was used in deposing Estrada could equally be used to depose her, despite the fact that the Said was an electoral mandate in the last presidential election.

By lowering the profile of the commentary. tion of people power, the President was more razed by self-interest and regime survival, with the latter being the most important consideration that defines the nature of her electoral administration.

3 facts

The shift in the definition of people power has, in effect, made people power a dirty word, associated with coups and political instability and makes it unmentionable in her administration's new political vocabulary.

The President made a shift in definition against the background of three facts.

First, approval ratings of her performance in public opinion polls had been tailing and might lead in a free fall.

Second, public discontent over increasing high prices of basic commodities and services, has been rising.

Third, there are more than enough disgruntled opponents of her administration hitting street and coup economic and conspiracy with three grievances feeding on widespread discontent.

The Filipinos' experience with people power as an agent of political change has failed to live up to their expectations after the euphoria over the overthrow of the Marcos regime in 1986 and of the Estrada administration in 2001.

Their frustrations have been fed by the failure of successive reform governments to first, alleviate poverty, second, improve living conditions, and third, install more efficient and honest governments.

So, it is not in the interest of the Arroyo administration to celebrate people power anniversaries and to perpetuate the myth that people power is responsible for the change and reform.

New myth

By downsizing expectations from people power, the Arroyo administration has to replace people power with new myth behind which Filipinos can be mobilized for political action that could fulfill their aspirations.

The new administration has not formulated a new mobilization ideology and program.

What it has done over the six months is that it has constructed threats to regime stability and survival through a web of shifting political alliances that has kept opponents at bay with political concessions to get them behind reform initiatives that address critical problems—such as the fiscal deficit crisis—with half-way measures legislation packages.

Since the administration does not have irrefutable assets to sustain temporary alliances, it will soon run out of resources to maintain these alliances with payoffs.

The need for allies to ensure regime survival defines the whole strategic thrust of the current Arroyo administration.

The threat has been characterized by ad hoc improvisation and overdoses of head-on attack of issues of political and fiscal reforms.

Edsa celebrations have outlived their usefulness as a diversionary manglabor to rob off popular expectations arising from people power-driven political change.

Ad hoc alliances can't guarantee regime survival.

Now more than ever, you should protect your investment with the Sentricon Termite Colony Elimination System

Termites can greatly diminish the value of your property. But wait. Protect it with the Sentricon Termite Colony Elimination System.

The impact of the Sentricon Termite Colony Elimination System on the termite control industry has been so significant, its revolutionary technology not only cuts your property of termites, it totally eliminates the termite colony and decreases the chance of termite invasion from occurring. Safely. Responsibly.

Unlike traditional methods, the Sentricon System doesn't emit harmful fumes or vapors that may be hazardous to you and your family's health.

What's more, Sentricon is non-disruptive to your daily activities. Our authorized pest control professional operators won't even need to drill through the floor or foundation, or disturb shrubs or other landscaping. Monitoring can be done even without entering your home.

It's not how much you're willing to spend for a safe and effective termite control system. It's how much you value your property that counts.

So whether you want to eliminate a colony or prevent one from being established, you can't go wrong with Sentricon.

Sentricon Colony Elimination System

There can be only one.

Dow AgroSciences

An Authorized Operator of Sentricon Colony Elimination System

PEST AWAY CORPORATION

30 St. Francisco Avenue, JPA Subdivision Muntinlupa City Tel.: 891-3403 to 04

DENR forest guards to become 'Special Cafgus'

By Tonyo Cruz
PDI Central Luzon Desk

BALAC CITY—Anticipating more violent incidents of forest raids, illegal logging and timber smuggling when combating rebel remained of the country's most militant bastions of forest lands, Environment Secretary Michael Defensor on Sunday announced a plan to issue guns to at least 3,000 forest guards.

"Special Cafgus (Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit)," war has retired Lt. Gen. Alfonso Daguiling, head of Task Force Sagip Kalikasan, described the armed targets. Daguiling was referring to the civilian reinforcers of the Armed Forces.

But Daguiling said arming the forest guards would not mean that Department of Environment and Natural Resources personnel would also perform military or police duties.

Forest guards, he said, would undergo training in marksmanship before they are given assignments.

Defensor said he saw the need to immediately send them to Quezon, Siargao, Agusan, Agusan, Davao and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao where illegal logging is rampant.

"I want our people to be prepared in confronting illegal logging activities," he said.

Daguiling, he said, had started consulting with Director General Edgar Aglipay, the Philippine National Police chief, and Gen. Edwin Ma, Armed Forces chief of staff, on the plan.

Defensor said the DENR's armory would initially accept firearms confiscated by the police and the military.

Of the 3,000 forest guards, 1,000 are women. At least 1,000 are aged 60 years and above, while the rest are in their 30s and 40s.

Defensor said since the 1960s, the DENR had been dealing with kumpras (slash-and-burn farmers) and educating them on the environmental destruction the farming practice wrought.

Recently, however, he said the kumpras had transformed a more difficult enemy: loggers with guns and money.

He said it was important to protect what was left of the country's mountain cover to prevent more killer landslides and flash floods from occurring.

Aside from arming forest rangers, Defensor said the agency had asked Congress to increase its financial capabilities.

"The battle is difficult," he said.

Last Saturday's ambush of nine DENR personnel and volunteers in Surigao del Sur [Page A19] is proof of the violent incidents, he said. (See story in Across the Nation, Page A19.)

Defensor said the agency's forest protection budget this year is only P86 million. "That amount is literally nuts of 99 for every hectare of forest."

Forest protection and in greening eight million hectares more would entail P66 billion under the DENR's seven-term development plan, he said.

Forester Avelino Bacalso said he hoped the amount would give additional transportation allowances to forest rangers. They get only P50 monthly, he said.

Insurance, according to him, was a minimum P6,000.

On Sunday, Bacalso was on the verge of team now for wounding of forest ranger Salvador Principe and Barangay Bahhanan volunteer Rosalino Canaceran.

Ben Canaceran, a farmer, said he felt fulfilled that he had done his part to protect his forest town where they were attacked while pursuing employees of a suspected illegal logger.

Defensor asked the military and the police to arrest the suspected illegal logger, Lopito Lagman, reportedly a former New People's Army commander.

Mike to Jamby: Shut up

[illegible] heavy flooding and landslides in Quezon, Marikina and Nueva Ecija last November and December that left more than 1,000 people dead. The hearing will be conducted by the Senate environment committee chaired by Sen. Nikki Coseteng.

Coming to the defense of his colleague, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said the environment secretary was "flood-phobia overkill that he will regret later on."

"I don't think that over-arresting his allegations to be true, the use of the gun ema should be raised upon the children," Pimentel said in a phone interview.

The Senate minority leader reminded that Defensor was speaking more out of anger than reasoning—although we was requested of a department secretary. "If Defensor persists on that kind of rhetoric, chris obviously he does not deserve the high position he is occupying," Pimentel said.

Ignorance of laws

In pressing the anti-illegal logging Task Force and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to name the big-time illegal loggers responsible for the flash floods in Quezon and Marikina, Madrigal said the federation group Bandalaheo betrayed their ignorance of the laws on illegal logging, according to Defensor.

"For illegal loggers to be charged, they must be caught in possession of the hot logs," he said.

"We are still in the middle of building our case against the big-time illegal loggers, that's why I didn't want to name names," he added.

Defensor said that when the task force announced on Friday the alleged involvement of General Motor Mayor Bernardo Avellaneda and several other local officials in illegal logging, he had said the initial success was a prelude to the filing of charges against big-time operators.

Media posturing

He also criticized Madrigal's alleged empty posturing in the media.

Speaking in Filipino, Defensor said: "I drop in Quezon for a week. She turns into, handing in a television, get her photographs taken. Then, it's all over. I told her, 'Go beyond media.'"

"I just don't go to Quezon for one day and get my pictures taken and then ask some people who are doing their jobs and ensuring that illegal loggers go behind bars," he said.

Defensor said the senator did not have the moral high ground to speak out against the mining industry as being destructive to the environment because she herself owned a mining firm.

"Why is (Madrigal) angry now and saying that mining is not good for the environment?" the secretary asked. Madrigal's family had "control big" in the mining business, he said.

Solid Cement

He noted that the senator owned Solid Cement and Consolidated Mines.

When the business asked for copies of documents showing Madrigal's stake in the companies, Defensor said, "If the Senate will ask me to present the documents, I'm willing to present them."

He said he hoped that by going public on the business interests of Madrigal and her family would serve a good purpose.

"Perhaps because of my statements the senator would have a different tack and be more careful when that be destructive to our campaign," Defensor said.

Attacks on forest guards

His family, he said, was neither into logging nor mining. We suppose for mining, he said, was because of the "tax holiday" given mining forest rangers.

Defensor's investment seemed to arouse more frustration than the task force and the DENR were not getting recognition for their efforts against illegal logging despite attacks on forest guards.

"I just came from (San Jose), Tarlac where three of my people—a forester, a forest guard and a volunteer—were shot at [by suspected illegal loggers]. We also have a forest patrol shot in Davao last November," Defensor said. (See story in Across the Nation, Page A19.)

"I myself had been shot at when we had an operation in November," he said. "People are being shot. (And) all they do is talk."

He cite had lunch with for the muskrats, which identified several logging firms in Aurora and Quezon, allegedly involved in illegal logging but left unscathed by the government task force.

"I hope they could help us identify their falsehood members in the Quezon Force whose names are being used by illegal loggers to tote logs out of the forest," Defensor said.

Actor Mayor Avellaneda's denial that he was not involved in illicit forest operations, Defensor was firm on the task force's finding that "he is an illegal logger."

Act immediately

Focusing on Defensor's charge that politicians were behind illegal logging in the country, Pimentel said the secretary and other environment officials should act immediately "if they have the goods on them."

"There is no need for additional talk," the opposition leader said, adding that the guilty politicians should be prosecuted immediately and put in jail.

Former President Fidel Ramos and environment authorities should prosecute the guilty parties "to the hilt."

"Whether big-time or small-time, all of them should be prosecuted for causing so much destruction to lives and property," Pimentel said in a separate phone interview.

Defensor said the DENR would not stop its campaign against illegal loggers in Quezon, Agusan del Sur and Siargao Occidental with the filing of charges against three mayors, a former representative of Quezon and a barangay chief.

"Our work is not finished," he said.

But he said the DENR's "work is difficult," referring to the need to enforce eight million hectares of forest lands and protect seven million hectares more. —With a report from Christine O. Avendaño

Reds target big loggers but continue 'tax' take

[illegible] "If GMA (President Macapagal-Arroyo) is afraid to go after the group of commercial loggers, our Red fighters will perform the task in pursuit of our true to serve the best interest of the people," the spokesperson of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) yesterday told the business.

Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal reiterated that the revolutionary movement was not condoning environmental destruction. But the CPP leader said: "We impose revolutionary tax because they operate within our territorial jurisdiction," the did not elaborate.

Retired Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus, the country's reformation czar, had said the New People's Army the armed wing of the CPP, depended on the revolutionary taxes it squeezed from both illegal and legal loggers.

Worst rights violator

Corpus, a former instructor at the Philippine Military Academy, became a top NPA commander but later left the guerrilla group.

Rosal branded the government-licensed commercial loggers that were allowed to cut trees by the thousands of hectares "as part of the present league of the worst human rights violators in the country".

He claimed that the revolutionary movement was already investigating logging illegal fishers, mining companies and quarry operators.

"They can expect subpoenas from the special revolutionary people's courts anytime," Rosal said, claiming that the CPP knows them all.

Destroy equipment

Rosal said all the accused would be given a chance to explain their side during trial.

"If they decide to ignore the invitation to appear before the people's court, they will be tried in absentia and consequently the punishment will be meted out if they deserve it," he said.

He claimed that NPA units had already conducted an intelligence operations of the operations of big-time loggers in their areas.

Asked what kind of punishment would be imposed by the NPA on erring commercial loggers, Rosal declined to categorically offer any answer. "I don't want to preempt the judgment of the people's court."

He said the NPA had already shown the kind of punishment it imposes on destructive drills: the environment.

"Most likely, all their equipment will be destroyed. We have already done that in Caparate Valley and Mindanao areas," Rosal said.

The announcement by the anti-illegal Logging Task Force on Friday that it

ROSAL

had filed cases of illegal logging against a former congressman and three mayors from the provinces of Quezon, Agusan del Sur and Siargao elicited not praise but flak from certain environmentalists.

Sen. Jamby Madrigal, who is pushing for a 50-year total ban on commercial logging, urged Corpus and Environment Secretary Michael Defensor to go after big-time loggers.

Fr. Eric Montellano, coordinator of the Indigenous Peoples' Apostolate in the Prelature of Infanta and director of the Tribal Center for Development, also urged the government to go after the big-time buyers of illegally cut logs.

"And they are plenty in General Nakar and Real towns," Montellano said in a phone interview.

Transit point

He said the tiga natives had informed him that Brgy Mahabis in Barangay Anuraw, the last village of General Nakar before the town of Tanay, Rizal, was being used as a transit point for the hauling of illegally cut logs from the Sierra Madre.

"The massive cutting of trees in the Sierra Madre still continues to this day. If the government is really serious in its fight against illegal logging, it should block that exit point and actual the perpetrators," the priest said.

Rosal blamed government-sponsored logging for the destruction of the Sierra Madre.

He revealed that the so-called imported logs from Malaysia were actually taken from the hillside portion of the Sierra Madre.

"Now that there are less trees to cut in their logging concessions, these big-time loggers are engaged in the buying of illegally cut logs from careless loggers. The big-time loggers maintain several buying stations and sawmills in the slopes of the mountains," Rosal said.

Although he defended Governor Nakar Mayor Bernardo Avellaneda from charges of illegal logging, Rosal said, "Barkonda could not actually escape blame, being an official of the government that allows logging."

MONDAY
JANUARY 24, 2005
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
B1
BUSINESS

TOSHIBA

Gov't cuts '05 deficit target to ₱177B

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL government has lowered its official budget deficit target for 2005, saying the positive budget performance last year coupled with newly approved revenue sources would result in a better fiscal picture.

The Development Budget Coordinating Committee (DBCC), the state agency body that sets the government's macroeconomic path, and budget, said the budget deficit now targeted to result only between ₱177 billion and ₱180 billion this year. It had set an original ceiling of ₱198.5 billion.

This means that the 2005 deficit is only expected to reach about more than 3.1 percent of gross domestic product, better than the original deficit-to-GDP target of 3.6 percent.

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin said the reduction of the deficit target for 2005 would also bring down the expected consolidated public sector deficit (CPSD), or the combined shortfalls of the national government, local government units and government companies.

From the original program of 5 percent, the DBCC now expected the CPSD to reach only 4.7 percent of GDP this year.

"Because of our very good revenue performance last year, we were able to pay off some of our obligations and therefore reduce our accounts payables," said Boncodin, who is also chair of the DBCC.

She said the government's higher-than-expected revenue collection in 2004 made the Department of Budget and Management, responsible for programming expenditures, to shorten the lag time in the payment of liabilities to suppliers and contractors. From the previous four months, the average lag time is now only at one and a half months.

The Department of Finance earlier announced that the budget deficit for 2004 reached ₱146.1 billion, or ₱15.7 billion lower than the official target of ₱197.8 billion. This means that the deficit last year stood at only 3.9 percent of gross domestic product, or better than the target of deficit-to-GDP ratio of 4.2 percent.

The better-than-programmed deficit last year was attributed to the strength in revenue collection. Although the Bureau of Internal Revenue, the biggest revenue contributor, missed its ₱476.3 billion target by about 3% billion, other revenue collection agencies like the Bureau of Customs and the Bureau of Treasury delivered more revenues than expected.

Aside from the government's deficit performance last year, the passage of the "sin" taxes (VAT) and implementation of administrative measures aimed at beefing

CONTINUED

Toyota seeks tax perks for ₱1.47-B project

By Ronnel W. Domingo

BOLSTERY leader Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. is applying for incentives with the Board of Investments for a ₱1.47 billion venture to design and manufacture locally a new commercial vehicle.

BOI documents showed that TMCP submitted its application for pioneer status of the project last December.

The company proposed to make a new commercial vehicle, dubbed the IMV Innova, which was registered on June 1, 2004, as a new basic model under EO 156.

EO 156, which Malacañang issued in December 2002, laid down a comprehensive industrial policy and direction for the Motor Vehicle Development Program and its implementing guidelines.

TMCP, which is 60 percent Filipino-owned and 40 percent Japanese-owned, is a registered participant of the MVDP for the automotive commercial vehicles like the Revo and passenger cars like the Corolla and Camry.

CONTINUED

Profit-taking seen this week

THE OUTLOOK for stock prices this week is for its rebound as investors expect the market's recent bullishness to start losing steam. Others, however, disagree with the economic advisers getting it right.

"Given positive momentum that has accumulated to encourage people to put their money in stock, regardless of valuation or how overbought the market is. We have a favorable, modest, sustainable kind of economic environment that stocks perform pretty well in, but we don't feel comfortable with the rate of increase in the past weeks. Most stocks are already at overbought levels and a consolidation or mild correction should be due for the market," said Jose Vitaliano of AP Capital Securities Inc.

Buying last week was frenzied as the main index surged 112 points a week on week to almost 6 percent to 1,867.34, the index's highest close in nearly five years.

A lot of the interest was in banking stocks after the Philippine Chamber of Mines said that a Philippine rebellion in China can take to generate $1.3 billion in investment commitments. The banking sector was up 19.31 percent week on week on gains by Philippine Banking, Manila Mining, Metrobank and Bank of the Philippine Islands.

Conditions was also listed from the foreign exchange market as the peso reached a two-eight month high at ₱55.48 to the dollar. Despite the general optimism, the positive

Lead your employees to greener pastures.

Corporate Stewardship

An Employee Benefit Program by Metrobank Trust

Guide your employees to a more fulfilling career that goes beyond employment.

Consider Corporate Stewardship. The program integrates different employee benefit plans into one "ready-to-use" off-the-shelf package. It includes a spectrum of retirement and savings benefits – from a basic Retirement Plan to a Provident Plan and Other Special Employee Benefit Plans, as well as an optional Savings & Loan Plan.

Come to us for Corporate Stewardship now. Inspire. Motivate. Then reap the rewards of your investment.

METROBANK
TRUST BANKING

You're in good hands with METROBANK

World oil prices may have gone up, but RP firm won't hike rates yet

By Abigail L. Ho

WORLD oil prices may have started to pick up again due to a number of factors, but industry leader Petron Corp. is not expected to raise pump prices any time soon.

"Global prices have increased over the past month, but there are industrious... that this may just be a spike because of seasonality," Petron president Khalid Al-Fadhigh said in an interview last Friday. "We don't react to spikes. We're more consistent in our pricing."

Al-Fadhigh said Petron currently uses a rising inflation rate of 4 price increases. If the increase in world oil prices would be sustained, then the efforts on local oil firms, including Petron, would be drastic.

But this would not mean that Petron would implement a pump price increase anytime soon.

The benchmark Dubai crude has been on an uptrend lately, breaching the $40-a-barrel mark last week in the spot market. From the December average of $34.30 a barrel, Dubai crude is now averaging around $37.808 a barrel this month.

Industry observers believe that the run-up in the election in Iraq has contributed to the uptick in world oil prices the past few days.

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) is also considering another output cut.

Apart from global factors, an expected key contributor in the possible increase of local pump prices would be the excise tax imposed on crude and refined petroleum product imports.

"Based on current prices, due to the additional tariff alone, a 4% increase is... [illegible] would be expected," an industry source said.

The Department of Energy through a department circular, suggested the tariff increase to 5 percent effective Jan. 1 from only 3 percent.

Seine Garments Corp.
We specialized in all uniforms for:
OFFICE - SCHOOLS - INDUSTRIALS
HOSPITALS - SPORTS - FACTORIES
MTS-CON-OTHER MADE TO ORDERS
Print & Electronic Embroidery
#87 Industrial Complex, Tanauan, Muntinlupa City
862-0488 Fax: 861-9669

Pinpointing your needs for a healthier life.
Acupuncture / Acupressure
- Stress
- Diabetes
- Osteoporosis
- Obesity
- Pains
- Lower Back Pains
- Cough/Colds
- Migraine
- Hand & Shoulder Pains
- Eating Disorders
SynergyMed

SEC to recommend closure of troubled pre-need firm

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

A SECURITIES and Exchange Commission committee will recommend the closure of Asian Diamond Plans Inc., since no one seems to come but some to acquire ABB's insurance base.

According to a source in the commission, the SEC management committee may meet this week to recommend to the commission en banc the liquidation of ADPI.

The SEC first issued a cease-and-desist order (CDO) against ADPI in December 2003 after it failed to submit its financial statements for the year ended 2002 and the first quarter of 2003.

The SEC also issued a show-cause order against ADPI in March 2004 for violating the CDO.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in June 2004 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the year ended 2003 and the first quarter of 2004.

Another show-cause order was issued in September 2004 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2004.

The SEC also issued another show-cause order in November 2004 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2004.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in December 2004 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the year ended 2004.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in January 2005 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2005.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in February 2005 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2005.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in March 2005 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2005.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in April 2005 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2005.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in May 2005 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2006.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in June 2005 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2006.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in July 2005 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2006.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in August 2005 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2006.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in September 2005 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2007.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in October 2005 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2007.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in November 2005 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2007.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in December 2005 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2007.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in January 2006 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2008.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in February 2006 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2008.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in March 2006 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2008.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in April 2006 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2008.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in May 2006 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2009.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in June 2006 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2009.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in July 2006 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2009.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in August 2006 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2009.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in September 2006 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2010.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in October 2006 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2010.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in November 2006 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2010.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in December 2006 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2010.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in January 2007 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2011.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in February 2007 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2011.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in March 2007 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2011.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in April 2007 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2011.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in May 2007 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2012.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in June 2007 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2012.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in July 2007 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2012.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in August 2007 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2012.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in September 2007 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2013.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in October 2007 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2013.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in November 2007 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2013.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in December 2007 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2013.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in January 2008 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2014.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in February 2008 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2014.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in March 2008 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2014.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in April 2008 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2014.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in May 2008 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2015.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in June 2008 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2015.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in July 2008 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2015.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in August 2008 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2015.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in September 2008 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2016.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in October 2008 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2016.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in November 2008 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2016.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in December 2008 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2016.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in January 2009 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2017.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in February 2009 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2017.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in March 2009 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2017.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in April 2009 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2017.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in May 2009 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2018.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in June 2009 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2018.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in July 2009 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2018.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in August 2009 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2018.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in September 2009 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2019.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in October 2009 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2019.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in November 2009 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2019.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in December 2009 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2019.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in January 2010 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2020.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in February 2010 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2020.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in March 2010 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2020.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in April 2010 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2020.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in May 2010 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2021.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in June 2010 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2021.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in July 2010 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2021.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in August 2010 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2021.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in September 2010 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2022.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in October 2010 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2022.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in November 2010 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2022.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in December 2010 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2022.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in January 2011 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2023.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in February 2011 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2023.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in March 2011 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2023.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in April 2011 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2023.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in May 2011 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2024.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in June 2011 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2024.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in July 2011 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2024.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in August 2011 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2024.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in September 2011 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2025.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in October 2011 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2025.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in November 2011 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2025.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in December 2011 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2025.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in January 2012 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2026.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in February 2012 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2026.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in March 2012 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2026.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in April 2012 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2026.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in May 2012 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2027.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in June 2012 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2027.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in July 2012 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2027.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in August 2012 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2027.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in September 2012 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2028.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in October 2012 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2028.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in November 2012 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2028.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in December 2012 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2028.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in January 2013 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2029.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in February 2013 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2029.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in March 2013 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2029.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in April 2013 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2029.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in May 2013 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2030.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in June 2013 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2030.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in July 2013 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2030.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in August 2013 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2030.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in September 2013 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2031.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in October 2013 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2031.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in November 2013 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2031.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in December 2013 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2031.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in January 2014 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2032.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in February 2014 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2032.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in March 2014 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2032.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in April 2014 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2032.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in May 2014 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2033.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in June 2014 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2033.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in July 2014 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2033.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in August 2014 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2033.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in September 2014 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2034.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in October 2014 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2034.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in November 2014 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2034.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in December 2014 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2034.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in January 2015 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2035.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in February 2015 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2035.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in March 2015 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2035.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in April 2015 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2035.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in May 2015 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2036.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in June 2015 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2036.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in July 2015 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2036.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in August 2015 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2036.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in September 2015 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2037.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in October 2015 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2037.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in November 2015 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2037.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in December 2015 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2037.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in January 2016 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2038.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in February 2016 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2038.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in March 2016 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2038.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in April 2016 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2038.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in May 2016 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2039.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in June 2016 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2039.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in July 2016 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2039.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in August 2016 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2039.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in September 2016 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2040.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in October 2016 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2040.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in November 2016 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2040.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in December 2016 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2040.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in January 2017 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2041.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in February 2017 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2041.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in March 2017 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2041.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in April 2017 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2041.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in May 2017 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2042.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in June 2017 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2042.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in July 2017 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2042.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in August 2017 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2042.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in September 2017 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2043.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in October 2017 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2043.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in November 2017 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2043.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in December 2017 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2043.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in January 2018 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2044.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in February 2018 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2044.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in March 2018 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2044.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in April 2018 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2044.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in May 2018 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2045.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in June 2018 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2045.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in July 2018 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2045.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in August 2018 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2045.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in September 2018 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2046.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in October 2018 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2046.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in November 2018 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2046.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in December 2018 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2046.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in January 2019 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2047.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in February 2019 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2047.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in March 2019 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2047.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in April 2019 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2047.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in May 2019 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2048.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in June 2019 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2048.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in July 2019 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2048.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in August 2019 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2048.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in September 2019 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2049.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in October 2019 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2049.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in November 2019 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2049.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in December 2019 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2049.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in January 2020 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2050.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in February 2020 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2050.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in March 2020 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2050.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in April 2020 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2050.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in May 2020 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2051.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in June 2020 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2051.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in July 2020 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2051.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in August 2020 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2051.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in September 2020 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2052.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in October 2020 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2052.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in November 2020 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2052.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in December 2020 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2052.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in January 2021 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2053.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in February 2021 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2053.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in March 2021 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2053.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in April 2021 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2053.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in May 2021 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2054.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in June 2021 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2054.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in July 2021 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2054.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in August 2021 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2054.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in September 2021 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2055.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in October 2021 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2055.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in November 2021 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2055.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in December 2021 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2055.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in January 2022 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2056.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in February 2022 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2056.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in March 2022 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2056.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in April 2022 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2056.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in May 2022 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2057.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in June 2022 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2057.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in July 2022 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2057.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in August 2022 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2057.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in September 2022 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2058.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in October 2022 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2058.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in November 2022 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2058.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in December 2022 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2058.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in January 2023 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2059.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in February 2023 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2059.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in March 2023 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2059.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in April 2023 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2059.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in May 2023 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2060.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in June 2023 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2060.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in July 2023 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2060.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in August 2023 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2060.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in September 2023 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2061.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in October 2023 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2061.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in November 2023 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2061.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in December 2023 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2061.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in January 2024 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2062.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in February 2024 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2062.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in March 2024 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2062.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in April 2024 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2062.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in May 2024 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2063.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in June 2024 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2063.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in July 2024 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2063.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in August 2024 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2063.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in September 2024 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2064.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in October 2024 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2064.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in November 2024 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2064.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in December 2024 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2064.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in January 2025 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2065.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in February 2025 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2065.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in March 2025 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2065.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in April 2025 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2065.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in May 2025 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2066.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in June 2025 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2066.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in July 2025 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2066.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in August 2025 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2066.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in September 2025 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2067.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in October 2025 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2067.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in November 2025 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2067.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in December 2025 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2067.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in January 2026 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2068.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in February 2026 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2068.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in March 2026 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2068.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in April 2026 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2068.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in May 2026 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2069.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in June 2026 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2069.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in July 2026 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2069.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in August 2026 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2069.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in September 2026 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2070.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in October 2026 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2070.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in November 2026 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2070.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in December 2026 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2070.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in January 2027 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2071.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in February 2027 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2071.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in March 2027 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2071.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in April 2027 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2071.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in May 2027 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2072.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in June 2027 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2072.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in July 2027 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2072.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in August 2027 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2072.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in September 2027 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2073.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in October 2027 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2073.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in November 2027 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2073.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in December 2027 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2073.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in January 2028 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2074.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in February 2028 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2074.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in March 2028 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2074.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in April 2028 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2074.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in May 2028 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2075.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in June 2028 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2075.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in July 2028 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2075.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in August 2028 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2075.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in September 2028 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2076.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in October 2028 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2076.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in November 2028 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2076.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in December 2028 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2076.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in January 2029 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2077.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in February 2029 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2077.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in March 2029 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2077.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in April 2029 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2077.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in May 2029 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2078.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in June 2029 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2078.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in July 2029 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2078.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in August 2029 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2078.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in September 2029 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2079.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in October 2029 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2079.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in November 2029 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2079.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in December 2029 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2079.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in January 2030 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2080.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in February 2030 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2080.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in March 2030 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2080.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in April 2030 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2080.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in May 2030 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the first quarter of 2081.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in June 2030 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the second quarter of 2081.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in July 2030 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the third quarter of 2081.

The SEC then issued another show-cause order in August 2030 for ADPI's failure to submit its financial statements for the fourth quarter of

Gubernatorial guessing game

It looks like banker Oscar Espinosa has the presidential nut for the mutual funds governorship.

The former Far East Bank president was seen in Bagtikan Group John Hay Dec. 20, on deep discount with no less than President Macapagal-Arroyo.

According to the grapevine, the President summoned Espinosa, who also happened to be in the Pines City at that time, and the two held a long talk and golf right in the golf course while PGA was in the middle of a game.

This talkie prompted our banker to put his money on Espinosa to succeed Rafael Buenaventura when the latter's term expires 166 days from today.

In addition to being a Malacañang nominee to the San Miguel board, Espinosa, so we heard, was one of the only three businessmen who accompanied GMA to the recent Apec summit in Chile, the others being port services king Enrique Razon Jr. and presidential adviser Roberto Ongpin.

The only dark cloud hanging over Espinosa's appointment is his inability to secure an out-of-court settlement with the East West refugee Vicente Paulino, whose trust fund boss rearranged after Espinosa's flat handed an avenue of temperamental malfeasance in a pre-New Year 2003 sailboat.

Another investor banker that should be notable happens to be **Xavier Loinaz, the just-retired president of Bank of Philippine Islands.**

Loinaz's upside, The Ayalas and the Roxas I and II bankers, rest to increase his considerable expertise in M-and-As and their attendant headaches.

Dynamite! Loinaz bank out people... ERR does...schools may be good in shaping up lethargic bureaucrats but mediocre in bare-nosing hotels.

Having said all that, there are those, one of them former Bangko Sentral Governor Gabriel Singson, who still believes that ERP Chair Jr. Ibarra is the "dark horse" to beat.

After all, not only was she a senior central banker and longtime secretary to the Monetary Board, Ibarra's husband, a lawyer, worked for the late President Macapagal-GMA's father. And Ibarra, like GMA, happens to also be a Calamianganin.

Ibarra was a guest at Malacañang's annual new year reception yesterday for the BSP governor and, **despite the January temp** as she spot an cocktails-ing hazardous to people of a certain age, the BSC chief scared us until almost all the guests had left, past 9 p.m., saying **her old managing ground.**

Seems like when asked if indeed she was the next guv? "I will go wherever the President seems me to go."

She should GMA asembo-dong selection and choose a newer official, the smart money is on Deputy Governor **Antonio Tinsingco Jr.,** who is in case with and popular **among the international financial** community and the non-political UP economics group, he being from UP Diliman an-self.

Even better, "Jun" Tinsingco happens to be a member of The Chosen Race. Like GMA, Tinsingco is from Pampanga.

Should Tinsingco get lucky expect Assistant Governor Nestor Espenilla to then move up to deputy governor in charge of supervision.

Money-go-round

◆ ABS-CBNNEWS.ph Larry Cruz has apparently hit the jackpot luck with his two-year-old Gab Ilavana in Goodwill 3—eclipsing

Toyota seeks tax perks . . .

The new commercial vehicle model, 1099 Innova, **is so named because it is designed as** an "innovative, multi-purpose vehicle."

TMPC said the IMV Innova will have a seating capacity of eight, "a new body style with larger body size and advanced design, and **a more advanced interior and exterior features."**

Also, the new vehicle will use a new gasoline designed for higher gear transmission, new frame and suspension, and newly developed engines.

The automobile wants pioneer status for the project, saying that the fifth Innova is a generic vehicle that is designed and suited for the **Asian markets. Each Innova is one of the vehi-**

According to the BOI, the required minimum annual exports to qualify for pioneer status is 10,000 completely built units of passenger cars and commercial vehicles.

In its application, Toyota said it planned to make 12,000 IMV Innova units yearly in its assembly plant in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

TMPC plans to fund the project entirely with equity. The project is expected to create 1,233 new jobs.

Riverview
Resort & Conference Center

Handrich Accounting System
Basic G/L EXPRESS - P9,990
Handrich Basic Payroll - P 2,490

Get an Accounting Software at a price you can afford!
A Global Leader in SME Business Solutions.
Available Worldwide. Supported Locally
More than 500,000 businesses worldwide use MYOB
P5,995. only
Also available: MYOB Premier / MYOB Single Accounting
MYOB BatchManager (POS Software)
Available in Selected MYOB Outlet Resellers
NATIONWIDE
Please call for more information
MYOB
Philippine Sole Authorized Distributor:
BOS SYSTEMS & TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

AS LOW AS ₱300
FAX REPAIR
KCC KINGS
10% DISCOUNT
JOB

PCs, Printers, Projectors, et al ... for rent!
RENTech

The fastest growing laundry chain is
OPEN FOR FRANCHISING
LET'S TALK DIRTY
Call 843.54.36 / 0921.565.6063
3925.924.1842

Cocktails

Victor C. Aganville

Profit-taking

energy was somewhat drained after Standard & Poor's Ratings Services on Monday cleared the sovereign outlook for the Philippines, saying the out reflected the government's inefficient response to its fiscal problems.

"But the markets didn't react to the downgrade as it was more or less expected. In fact, the markets have already discounted downgrade of our notches from the rating agencies. Moreover, the markets were pleased when S&P raised its outlook on the country to stable, eliminating concerns of more downgrades going forward," Ventus wrote in a weekly report.

He added that what turned bugged the bourse bearishness was the government's 2004 full-year budget deficit of ₱146.1 billion or 3.9 percent of gross domestic product, a key measure of the economy's financial health. The number announced was **below the target** cited.

"The performance was due primarily to **higher** tax receipts from the Customs bureau, especially on imported oil products. Optimism is being further strengthened by the government's prompt bar fix oil rebates.

Congress has approved the anti-tax bill, which seeks to improve the government tax collection through a system of incentives and penalties for employees of revenue collection agencies. Also last week, the National Economic and Development Authority said that 2004 GDP growth might be above 6.1 percent in 2004, well above the government's target of 6.0-6.5 percent. Ellen Joy L. Ignacio

UP FROM 2003, BUT MISSES TARGET

Bayantel revenue hit P5.4B in 2004

By Dorina S. Reino

BAYANTEL Telecommunications Inc., the phone company of the Lopez Group, has booked revenues of about P5.4 billion in 2004 against nearly P5 billion in 2003, a senior official said.

However, Bayantel chief executive Teofilo Pelaluna admitted that the company's sales last year were below the target of P5.7 billion.

While the subsidiary of Benpres Holdings Corp. had been in the red during its 11 years of operations, Bayantel said profitability was not an issue for a company undergoing financial rehabilitation.

In 2005, Bayantel was still counting on hitting revenue of P6 billion from about 280,000 fixed line subscribers at the start of the year, Pelaluna said.

He said the company's subscribers would go up to more than 350,000 this year and double in two years as Bayantel expands to new voice and data markets.

Pelaluna said the most important thing to focus on would be the company's capacity to settle its debt and finance operations as affected by a measure called Hinda or earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization.

Hinda reached slightly above P1 billion in 2004, up by 15 percent from the previous year.

This year, the company is targeting an Hinda of P2.2 billion, according to Bayantel chief finance officer Salvador Tirona. He said there were delays in the impact of marketing on sales, thus the lower than target revenue for 2004.

Pelaluna said the company would spend another P1.3 billion this year, the same amount in 2004, to boost its growing voice and data businesses, especially the Internet.

Pelaluna also said Bayantel listed long distance as also strong growth areas for the group.

Despite being in the red, Bayantel completed its investment in a $10-million upgrade of a nationwide backbone facility jointly owned by several other telecom players.

National Digital Transmission Network, a consortium of almost all local landline operators, upgraded the nationwide backbone infrastructure for local exchange to 10 gigabytes per second from 2.5 gigabytes.

The 400 percent expansion in the capacity would allow the network to handle increased traffic, similar to a road widening to decongest a highway. "The delivery of reliable and quality long-distance services, cellular traffic, high-speed data, video, internet, broadband signals and other communication services in major cities and localities will be assured," Pelaluna said during Friday's launch of the network expansion.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Our ChargeLight Tuition Raffle Winners!

Diners Club International clubtuition

"All I need to pay for my son's law school tuition fee is in the palm of my hands."

"And for using my card, I get a new home theater system!"

Mr. Tan Chay Khaw availed of CLUB TUITION in November 2004. He was able to fund the law studies of his son, James, and he was drawn as the lucky winner of a brand new Pioneer Home Theater System.

Pioneer HTZ-77

SECURITY BANK TUITIONLIGHT

Mr. Robert Daya availed of Tuition Light in November 2004 to pay for the college education of his son, John Patrick, and was drawn as the lucky winner of a mobile phone.

Nokia 7610

"With this card, it's so easy to send your child to school."

"And just by availing of Tuition Light, I got a brand new cellular phone!"

For inquiries, please call:

88-791-88 • 88-791-77

Cebu: (032) 231-4000 • Davao: (082) 224-0341

SBCards

Cocktales

Heard through the grapevine

DAUIN Mayor Feraldo Tingcha has asked the Apalso to furnish City Hall a certified copy of the consolidated certified of the purchased Madeti/Madeti as the city government could determine the proper amount of business tax that should be levied on the contractor of the more than P1 billion road.

The contractor happens to be the Apalso' sister Mabati Development Corp.

(Email, cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

Cheap calls and family unity

BY A RECENT meeting with some economists, Mediterranean Business Post observed how the free telephone calls provided by a weekend TV show that permitted overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) to speak with their family members here at home appear to mean so much to these people. The conversations made on the air—from participants to callers, but not a smirk or four large members of people are grabbing the opportunity to speak with their loved ones almost for free, even if they have to forego privacy. Clearly, the 40 cents a minute being charged by the phone companies for overseas calls remains way too expensive for many, perhaps most, of the families of the OFWs to be able to call on a regular basis.

No Free Lunch

Cielito Habito

Fire-cost calls

But those calls don't have to cost that much. Anyone who has traveled to the US, Japan or other countries knows that one can easily buy phone cards that permit calls to the Philippines (or any other country) for under 10 cents a minute, even for as low as five cents. What makes this possible is a device very known Protocol (VoIP), a technology that allows one to make telephone calls using a broadband Internet connection instead of a regular (analog) phone line, thereby avoiding the telephone companies' long distance charges. Some services using VoIP allow calls only to other people using the same service, but others allow calls to any telephone number—including local, long distance, mobile, and international numbers.

The technology has been around for many years, and some Internet service providers (ISPs) had begun to offer cheap overseas phone calls using VoIP—until they were stopped by the telcos, particularly local player PLDT. In the absence of a specific law pertaining to Internet-based telephony in the country, PLDT along with other local telcos argue that the latest thing together to offer voice services in the country due to their existing franchise from Congress. PLDT has even cited avowed 85% of its long VoIP services.

Captured!

The issue has boiled down to whether VoIP should be classified as a telecommunications service or as a value-added service (VAS). If it is the former, then normal line holds that 20% and perhaps more of the revenues of international providers other than franchised public telecommunications entities (PTEs) that sell VoIP services only if the 20% share rates are separate agreements with these PTEs. If, on the other hand, VoIP is classified as a VAS or enhanced service, then nothing would stop ISPs and other potential non-PTE providers to offer VoIP as separate and distinct service. Even NGOs wishing to provide the service to the poor would do so.

Meanwhile, from an earlier stance advocating the proliferation of VoIP as a main economical means of communicating, the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) appears to have turned around and now appears to be siding with the PLDT. It has been reported that by the NTC has "one area that "only duly authenticated and authorized PTEs may offer VoIP for consumer service." The draft guidelines, circulated supposedly "for discussion," also specifically bars providers of VAS such as ISPs from offering consumer VoIP services.

The NTC had been further quoted as saying that allowing ISPs and non-telcos to sell VoIP will give "unfair competition" to telcos, citing that RA 7925 requires them to provide land line services to unserved and underserved areas in the country, while ISPs and other potential VoIP providers are not obliged to.

If this is an indication of the forthcoming decision the NTC is expected to issue within the first quarter of this year, then it would be a very regrettable one. For the wider public interest—and, as a matter of preserving the current universal of the telcos. Some are beginning to see it as another example of a regulatory agency that has been "captured" by those whom it is supposed to regulate. If this is indeed true, then perhaps Congress can come to the rescue—assuming they are not yet similarly "captured."

In contrast, the US federal Communications Commission (FCC) has maintained that Internet and Internet-related services are unregulated, unequivocally classifying VoIP as an Internet-related service. To quote the FCC's website:

"The FCC has worked to ensure consumer protection, promoting competition and innovation in a number of ways. Historically the FCC has not regulated the Internet or the services provided over it. On Feb. 12, 2004, the FCC announced that an entirely Internet-based VoIP service was an unregulated information service. On the same day, the FCC began a broader proceeding to examine what its role should be in this new environment of increased consumer choice and what it can best do to meet its role of safeguarding the public interest."

Helping OFW families

Being true to his Cabinet title as Secretary of Socio-economic Planning (i.e. not just Economic Planning), Secretary Dinky indicated in a recent speech that the government is looking to VoIP as a cheaper alternative to cheap distance calls, especially to help families of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs). If we cannot avoid losing millions of our fellow Filipinos have their families behind to earn their living overseas, then the least we can do for them is to ensure that their loved ones left behind would break apart as a result. The ability to make frequent phone contact can be highly instrumental in keeping these OFW families intact. Forty cents per minute overseas calls won't make this possible, but five-cent per minute VoIP calls definitely could. This is one very tangible service that NGOs forward to strengthening the Filipino family (and this includes churches all over the country) can very well provide—and should indeed be encouraged.

And let's not make it a choice for them to do so. Comments: welcome at dhabito@inquirer.com.ph.

TOSHIBA

No. 1 Choice for Quality & Reliability

Toshiba recommends Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional.

Enjoy clearer images with
Clear SuperView (CSV) technology.

With Toshiba's new Clear SuperView (CSV) technology, you can now experience crystal-clear image and video playback on the go. The revolutionary anti-glare CSV display with its wide viewing angle gives you high contrast images – whether it's in black and white, or in full brilliant color. So enhance your overall visual experience now.

PORTÉGÉ A200
Model No: PPA15L-00T00D
Stylish Pearl White clean-cool chassis with Clear SuperView display technology.

- Intel® Centrino™ Mobile Technology
  Intel® Pentium® M Processor 725 (1.6GHz, 2MB Cache, 400MHz FSB)
  Intel® PRO/Wireless Network Connection 802.11g
- Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional
- Microsoft® Office OneNote™ 2003
- Toshiba ConfigFree™ Connectivity Center
- 12.1" (30.7cm) Flat-Panel TFT display
- 512MB DDR SDRAM
- 60GB HDD with shock absorber
- CD-RW/DVD-ROM combo drive
- 5C slot, 3 x USB 2.0, i.LINK (IEEE1394) and S-Video TV-out ports
- Up to 3.8 hours battery life with standard battery pack
- 3-Year carry-in, International Limited Warranty (parts and labor)

Satellite A50-S537G
Satellite A60-S535
Satellite M30-S735G

Check with our dealers for details on other TSH models.

Global Support Centre
For warranty and technical support, please call 24x7 toll-free: 1800 188 18441

Business Mobile Computing Partner:
Tricom Dynamics, Inc. www.tricom.com.ph
MANILA 810-4444 • CEBU 231-5555 • DAVAO 221-1111

Choose freedom
www.cn.smart.com.ph

3 rural banks placed under PDIC receivership

By Doris C. Dienlas

THE MONETARY Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas recently ordered the closure of three small rural banks—Rural Bank of Pinamar, Bunsi Rural Legaspi and Buhatan Sorsogon.

The Monetary Board also placed these banks under the receivership of Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp.

The insured depositors of these banks are now being processed, the PDIC said in a statement on Friday.

It said RB Pinamar, a single unit bank in Concordia Plaza, was ordered closed by the Monetary Board last Jan. 6. PDIC reported that RB Pinamar was the fourth to benefit from the new assistance deposit insurance cover of P250,000 which took effect in August last year. The first three were First Savings Bank, Rural Bank of Cabiao (Antipas) and Isla Development Bank (Zamboanga).

Payment of claims

PDIC also announced the settlement of P4.469 million in insurance claims of 8,087 insured depositors. The pay-out started Jan. 11, or a few days after PDIC took over the bank on Jan. 7.

This class from the start of the pay-out, PDIC had received 278 screenings or about 14 percent of RB Pinamar's 1,984 insured deposit accounts and about 4.2 per cent of the estimated insured amount of deposit liabilities of P5.97 million.

The agency said it had likewise started paying insured depositors of Buhatan Rural Legaspi and Bunsi Sorsogon, which were shut down on Jan. 12.

Buhatan Rural Legaspi, established in 1956, has some insured deposit liabilities of P12.63 million that cover 6,475 insured deposit accounts. It is a thin unit rural bank with head office in Legaspi City and branches in Daet, Camalig, Iriga, Pili, Guinobatan, Tiwi, Tabaco, Albay, and Magallon.

Deadlines

PDIC said it would accept insurance claims at the premises of the closed bank's head office and branches until Feb. 6, with the exception of Pili branch that will accept inquiries in their vicinity only until Jan. 27. After these dates, claims may be filed in person or by mail at the PDIC office up to Jan. 31, 2005.

Established in 1956, Bunsi Rural Legaspi has some insured deposit liabilities of P13.63 million with head office in Legaspi City and branches in Gubat and Bacon, Sorsogon, and Donsol, Albay. Its estimated deposit insured liabilities amounted to P195.8 million covering 7,704 insured deposit accounts.

PDIC said it would service claims at the premises of the head office and Gubat branch until Feb. 4, and at the Bacon and Donsol branches until Feb. 2. After these dates, claims may be filed in person or by mail at the PDIC office up to Jan. 31, 2005.

The PDIC announced that after said dates of cutoff payout, claims from depositors of said banks may either be filed personally at the head office or by mail.

Do you have the POWER to condition your water?

Power MAX

PowerMax has the ability to correct water. A versatile in fuel. Once attached to your 3/4 inch water, nothing will stop or affect to the inside walls of the water system. It also conditions & treats water of corrosive, acidic and saves to make it more effective with chemicals.

TAP MAX

New Year Resolution

Computerize Your Business This Year

- Warehousing & Construction
- Financing & Loan Tracking System
- Invoicing & Inventory
- Hospital & Clinic System
- Accounting & Payroll
- Custom Lead to Suit Your Business Operation

First Quotation

State of the Art Development Tools

02-781-5699

Alien documentation project to raise P1.5B

MDR

ECONDEV Planning Secretary Romulo Neri said the government stands to make a windfall of some P1.5 billion over the next 10 years from an alien documentation project of the Bureau of Immigration (BI).

Neri said the project had started in Alien Certificate of Registration Identification Card (ACR I-Card) project, which automated the registration process for foreigners as intended way in the country. The technology pair all documentation requirements into a single, tamper-proof identification card.

Neri said the BI project, which is expected to boost the government's drive against international terrorism, transnational crimes and drug trafficking, was approved by the National Economic Development Authority Investment Coordinating Council (Neda-ICC) last year.

This is a build-operate-transfer (BOT) project, Neri said. He stressed that the project will be a government guarantee and "involves no risk at all for the government."

Under the project, legal aliens in the country will pay $340A for the ACR I-Card documentation. Based on 2003 immigration data, Neri said the target number of legal aliens are expected to benefit from the high-technology service.

Neri said under the BOT arrangement, nearly 80 percent of the gross revenue of the project would go directly to the government.

The government's income stream comes from its 30 percent share in the annual gross revenue of the project, a guaranteed P54 million annual concession fee, and the corresponding value added tax.

Neri said the project is expected to create more jobs for Filipinos and increase taxes. This translates to about P100 million windfall for the government each year, Neri said.

The government is not spending a single centavo for this project. It is completely funded by the private sector consortium which also assumes all financial risks, Neri pointed out.

The Citizenship Immigration Commissioner Alipio Fernandez Jr. for the project, noting that the "is the country's best contribution to the concerted global effort to combat terrorism."

The Fernandez initiative will make it very hard for terror groups to use the Philippines as a launching base for their operations, Fernandez said.

In the meantime, Immigration Associate Commissioner Alfredo Agustin Santiago said the BI project also involves the putting up of special booths in international entry and exit points in the country for ACR I-Card holders. The cash and the booths will expedite the entry and exit of legal aliens.

SECURITY BANK

Security Bank Centre

6776 Ayala Avenue, Makati City

8091 897-5700

STATEMENT OF CONDITION

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CONDITION

ASSETS

LIABILITIES

CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS

Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation. Maximum Deposit Insurance for Each Depositor - P250,000.00.

RP, Myanmar to hold air talks this week

By Cleiton S. Batino

THE PHILIPPINES is scheduled to hold air talks with Myanmar this week.

The move is in line with the country's plans to join an informal regional sub-grouping that includes Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam, a senior aviation official said.

Teresa Mataliza, executive director of the Civil Aeronautics Board, said the country wants to update its air services agreement with the CLMV group with the intention of joining the regional alliance. The grouping may also include Indonesia soon.

"Vietnam invited us, along with Indonesia, to join the CLMV group. We want to complete the CLMV talks within the first half," said Mataliza in an interview.

The formation of Southeast Asian Nations is encouraging the formation of regional subgroups to boost the flow of goods and services among member countries. Singapore, Thailand and Brunei have formed their own sub-group.

Mataliza said talks between the Philippines and Myanmar were scheduled for Jan. 25 to 26 in Myanmar.

Discussions with Myanmar will involve a more air agreement and the allocation of entitlements to encourage carriers of both countries to start operating flights, the CAB chief added.

For the first quarter of the year, the country's air panel had tentatively scheduled air talks with India and Iran. Talks with Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam are being scheduled.

In 2004, the Philippines forged successful aviation deals with Japan and Nepal. Japan allowed an increase in Philippine flights weekly to several destinations as the two countries agreed to lift restrictions over 4 day. The deal between the Philippines and Nepal is their first air services agreement.

Nepal also gave the Philippines a limited fifth freedom right to allow local carriers to pass through Bangkok and pick up passengers before flying to Kathmandu.

"We have a basic air services agreement with Myanmar that has to be updated," said Mataliza.

The Philippines, and the CLMV, also wanted to take advantage of the growing tourism and economic relationship between the countries.

Myanmar, with a population of about 45 million, is near Bangladesh, China, India, Laos and Thailand. It has 79 airports, of which nine are paved.

In Cambodia, tourism is considered the fastest growing industry.

Investments seen hitting ₱200B this year

By Ramon W. Domingo

INVESTMENTS registered with incentive-granting agencies of the government are expected to reach at least ₱200 billion by the end of this year.

The amount represents a 15-percent increase from the ₱183 billion registered in 2004.

Trade Undersecretary Elmer C. Hernandez, who is also managing head of the Board of Investments, said in an interview that the projection was in line with the government's overall economic growth target this year.

Hernandez said the ₱200 billion projection for 2005 was on the low side considering that foreign and local investments in mining projects were expected to start flowing in this year.

The amount could be greater, said since the government already has leads for at least ₱300 billion in investments in new mining projects alone.

"When mining investments come in, the figure could exceed the ₱200 billion mark," he said.

Last week, Hernandez announced that one of the biggest mining companies in China had expressed interest to invest $100 million in a Philippine project.

He said at least 130 Chinese mining firms expressed interest in some 35 projects during a Philippine mining investment promotion roadshow held in Beijing last week.

Hernandez said interest from investors in other foreign countries were expected to be kindled at another mining forum to be held in the country in February.

The Chamber of Mines of the Philippines has invited at least 50 foreign investors and investment houses for the forum.

Investor interest in mining projects perked up after the Supreme Court issued a decision last Dec. 1 affirming that foreign mining companies can take part in the development of local mines.

In 2004, investments approved by the BOI and the Philippine Economic Zone Authority reached around ₱183 billion, an increase of 222 percent from the ₱56.7 billion posted in 2003.

Data from the Department of Trade and Industry showed that the power sector accounted for the biggest investment commitments last year.

These projects included GN Power Ltd.'s ₱96.33 billion coal-based cycle power plant that runs on liquefied natural gas and two of PNOC Energy Development Corp.'s geothermal projects—the ₱9.1-billion Tiwi-Makban project and the ₱1.38 billion Palinpinon 2 expansion project.

The biggest project, GNPower's proposed 1,200-megawatt power plant in Bataan, is a joint venture between Razon-based Power Partners Ltd. and local firm PNR Ltd. Co.

SSS: Milking cow of solons?

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES
Florencio C. Gonzaga

If I [SSS] said it once, I have said it a thousand times before. Lawmakers are, oh, so generous—with money that is not theirs.

Every time the legislature opens a new session, our lawmakers scramble to file bills that will give SSS members' money away.

Rep. Lorna Silverio (Lakas, 3rd District, Bulacan) filed HB 5962 to reduce the penalty of employers who were delinquent in their contributions from 3 percent to a ridiculous one-half percent monthly. She explained, "Many of the companies are adversely affected by the present economic crises [because of] the weakness of the Philippine currency coupled with the threatening increase of oil prices."

The bill will actually encourage employers' delinquency, one of the big problems at the SSS. The employers will find it cheaper to "borrow" the contributions from the SSS rather than take out a loan from a bank.

Rep. Pedrito Cajes (Lakas, 2nd District, Bohol) filed HB 5265. He wants the penalty to be reduced to one and one-half percent. This is better than the fellow's bill but is still encourage delinquency just the same.

The other part of the bill limits the loans for the contributions to bank pay only. All other remunerations, such as cost of living allowance, are excluded. This will weaken the SSS because contributions will go down while the level of benefits will remain the same.

Rep. Candido Pignatos (KNP, Mountain Province), under HB 2053, wants the SSS to "set aside a portion of its investment reserve fund for the livelihood credit needs of pensioners." The limits are modest enough, not less than ₱5,000, or more than ₱20,000. But when one considers retirees, he has the option of getting the first 36 month pension as a discount of lump sum, which will be enough to capitalize a small business in this life extension.

However, Congress should not encourage retirees to go into debt.

Rep. Eduardo Bonguyo (San Jose del Monte) filed HB 5299 to increase pensions. I would be the last person on earth to object to an increase in pensions. But, an increase should always be funded by additional contributions. Otherwise, the SSS will simply run out of funds earlier than planned.

The bill also mandates the SSS to set up an institutional fund so that they member who has paid only three months' contribution will qualify to borrow from this fund.

Rep. Bonguyo does not say where the SSS will get the money to finance his bright idea.

Sen. Ralph Recto, in his Bill 1562, wants the SSS to increase its exposure to low-cost housing, and to salary calamity and other loans to members.

Low-cost housing and small loans to members are the most disastrous investments in the SSS portfolio. As of the end of 2003, the total investment in low-cost housing was just over ₱40 billion. At least ₱16 billion are hopelessly sour past due. The small loans were just over ₱11 billion. It is so rimmed that at least 80 percent cannot be collected anymore; the SSS can no longer count most of the borrowers.

The grand total of ₱71 billion of garbage is a whopping 62 per cent of total assets. This is the biggest reason why there is not enough cash flowing in the SSS. Senator Recto wants the SSS to churn good money after bad.

Clearly, all these bills are not backed by technical and actuarial studies. The authors simply want to be able to say that they have the interest of the SSS members at heart. This early, they are already campaigning for their re-election in 2007.

But their hearts are in the wrong places. Their heartaches's just want to make a walking zoo out of the SSS.

If the authors of these bills would like to make a big play for the grandstands, may I suggest that they jointly file a resolution requesting President Arroyo to set up a Fact-Finding and Audit Tracking commission to look into the true financial picture of the SSS. The commission should be composed of the top leaders of the private sector. After all, the employers pay 66 percent of the contributions.

In the meantime, the Philippine Association of Retired Magistrates (PARF) strongly objects to these bills and has submitted its position papers to Rep. Eladio M. Ads, chair of the House committee on government enterprises and privatization, and to Senator wave-and-wanta committee chair Sen. Ralph Recto.

If you are an SSS member, active or retired, please join PARF in its fight against these bills. Please write to Rep. Ads and Sen. Recto. These bills should all die quite unheard in the committees.

Gov't taps Maynilad's performance bond

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE PHILIPPINE government was finally able to tap last Friday the ₱3.06-million performance bond posted by Maynilad Water Services Inc., the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System said.

MWSS finance department head Evarlito Pelaez said that, after deducting service fees, about ₱3.19 million was transferred to the account of Land Bank of the Philippines in Ortigas.

Pelaez said that if true Citicorp, the bond's lead arranger, that informed MWSS that the transfer had been completed.

The government was hoping to withdraw the bond last December. However, it was unable to do so because of certain technicalities.

MWSS deputy administrator Macra Cruz said in another interview that the banks, which served as standby letters of credit (SBLC) banks of Maynilad, gave MWSS the go-signal on Dec. 15 to withdraw what it was trying to retain the ₱3.20-million bond.

"They [the banks] informed us that only a US depository bank is authorized to receive the bond in her behalf," Cruz said.

Cruz said the SBLC banks later agreed to the bond transfer to CitiPs account in Citicorp.

The ₱320 million will be used to pay more than ₱1.3 billion in accumulated debts of Maynilad to the government, particularly the MWSS.

MWSS concessionaire, Maynilad and Manila Water Corp., were required to post performance bonds. The bonds serve as guarantee funds to ensure for the fulfillment of the water concessionaires in case they fail to meet their obligations.

Maynilad has been unable to pay its concession fee since March 2000.

NOTICE AND WARNING

AION KABUSHIKI KAISHA (Aion Co. Ltd.), a corporation organized and existing under the laws of Japan with office address at 6-7, Imaisachi 2-chome, Chuo-ku, Osaka, Japan is the owner of the trademark **AION PLAS CHAMOIS** used for "instruments and materials for cleaning purposes".

It has come to the attention of AION CO. LTD. that some individuals and entities have been manufacturing, importing, distributing and/or selling counterfeit products using the AION PLAS CHAMOIS trademark. These products bear the identical trademark of AION CO. LTD. and the identical or confusingly similar representation or packaging of the genuine products without the authority or consent of AION CO. LTD.

The counterfeit product is almost identical to the genuine product. For the guidance and awareness of the public, some of the visible differences between the genuine and counterfeit products are the following:

GENUINE

IMITATION

GENUINE AION PLAS CHAMOIS	COUNTERFEIT AION PLAS CHAMOIS
1. Color of container is YELLOW.	1. Color of container is dark yellow or yellow-orange.
2. The AION PLAS CHAMOIS mark on the container is embossed and/or made of thicker or darker ink.	2. The AION PLAS CHAMOIS mark on the container appears merely printed and is made of lighter or thinner ink.
3. One of the numbers 3, 4, 5 or 8 appears at the bottom of the container.	3. No number appears at the bottom of the container.
4. Font used for numbers appearing under the bar code is Times New Roman.	4. Font is unidentifiable.
5. Plastic packaging of the Chamois product has no black square mark at one end.	5. Plastic packaging for the Chamois product bears a black square mark at one end.
6. Plastic packaging bears the letters PP & a logo to show that packaging is made of plastic.	6. No similar mark appears on the packaging.
7. The ends of the Chamois are slightly curved.	7. The ends of the Chamois are more curved or rounded.

WARNING is hereby given that individuals and entities engaged, directly or indirectly, in the unauthorized manufacture, importation, distribution and/or sale of counterfeit AION PLAS CHAMOIS products should immediately cease and desist from their unlawful acts, otherwise they will be prosecuted criminally, civilly and administratively. The unauthorized use or merchandise of the trademark AION PLAS CHAMOIS and the use of the identical or confusingly similar representation or packaging of the genuine products constitute counterfeiting and are criminal offenses punished under our laws on trademark and copyright infringement, and/or unfair competition.

Information on the unauthorized manufacture, importation, distribution and/or sale of counterfeit AION PLAS CHAMOIS products may be relayed to the attorneys hereunder named. Any information given and the identities of informers, if disclosed, will be held in strict confidence.

ORTEGA, DEL CASTILLO, BACORRO ODULIO, CALMA & CARBONELL
5th and 6th Floors, ALPAP I Bldg., 140 L. P. Leviste Street (formerly Alfaro Street), Salcedo Village, 1227 Makati City
Tel. Nos. 818-23-21 to 25 / 810-4360 *Telefax 810 3153/750 2606
E-Mail: ocbocc@philonline.com

Bicol seeks way out of list of top 10 poorest regions

By Gil Francis G. Arevalo
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LEGAZPI CITY—At least P67.7 billion worth of major development projects are either ongoing or in the pipeline in the Bicol Region.

And if these major infrastructure projects push through, the region could find its way out of the list of the top 10 poorest regions in the country, according to an official of the National Economic and Development Authority.

Jimmelyn Ilabaya, Bicol Head assistant regional director, said during a roundtable discussion with PDI Bicol correspondents that Bicol is ranked third among the top 10 poorest regions, a slight improvement from its second to previous years.

Ilabaya attributed Bicol's poor economic standing to the ratings of Masbate and Camarines Norte, which are among the top 10 poorest provinces in the country.

Masbate is ranked the poorest province, while Camarines Norte is 10th on the list.

As much as 62 percent of Masbate's residents, and 52 percent of Camarines Norte, are classified as poor.

The members stated Bicol's average poverty incidence of 46 percent.

Factors behind the region's poor economic standing include low agricultural productivity and lack of sustainable plans or programs for major social and economic projects.

"Though majority of the provinces in Bicol have been improving their economic status, if two of its provinces have been identified as having below performance level rates, then surely it has a pulling of feet, and that what's happening to Bicol, since Masbate and Camarines Norte have been consistently on the list," Ilabaya said.

One of the projects that could improve the region's standing is the development of the Legazpi-Ligao-Matnog Coastal Growth Corridor.

The corridor was conceived by the [illegible]

CLOSE to half of Bicol's population is classified as poor. But with the right projects, the numbers could improve.

BACKUP EXEC SUITE

THE GOLD STANDARD IN WINDOWS DATA PROTECTION

VERITAS

VERITAS Software Philippines: 18F Philamlife Tower, 8767 Paseo de Roxas Street, Makati City Philippines 1226
Tel: +632-830 0877 • Fax: +632-814 9523 • VERITAS 24X7 Technical Support Hotline: 1 800 1441 8030
Technical Support Website: http://support.veritas.com

VERITAS

THE GOLD STANDARD
IN WINDOWS DATA PROTECTION

IT administrators require a reliable, easy to use, data protection solution that is cost effective and simple enough for the novice user to install and administrate, yet flexible enough to protect large Windows environments, departmental workgroups, remote office environments and critical data on desktops and laptops.

It must be scalable enough to grow from a single server into a multi-server storage area network (SAN).

The ideal solution must back up more data with less hardware, in less time, with fewer resources, and be managed centrally.

Introducing **VERITAS Backup Exec™ 10 for Windows Servers** - the Gold Standard in Windows data protection. It provides comprehensive, cost effective, certified protection for Microsoft Windows server environments for disk or tape based backup and recovery.

An easy to use, intuitive administration console consolidates product operations within a browser-like view and features wizards that simplify data protection and recovery procedures for any level user and any size network.

Optional centralized administration simplifies the management of multiple local or distributed Backup Exec media servers and combines with high-performance add-on agents that support granular recovery of today's business-critical messaging and database applications to quickly protect and restore desktop, laptop and server data and applications.

KEY BENEFITS

- Simple to grow - simple to manage
- Faster disk-based recovery
- Continuous backup protection for desktops and laptops
- Extends high performance protection to remote Linux servers
- Reduces operational cost in Microsoft Windows environments
- Increases Windows application availability
- Provides certified compatibility across Microsoft Windows 2000 and Windows 2003 Servers

INTRODUCING THE BACKUP EXEC SUITE

Designed to meet the evolving needs of today's businesses, VERITAS introduces the Backup Exec Suite.

The Backup Exec Suite delivers an unprecedented, integrated solution that lets today's Windows-based organizations continuously protect and manage their business-critical information.

The suite is comprised of VERITAS Backup Exec, Replication Exec™ and Storage Exec™. As an integrated suite, it is a simple to grow and simple to manage solution designed to meet the evolving needs of today's businesses.

Find out how millions of users score a perfect 10 for their Windows data protection!

Go to http://www.veritas.com/backup_exec/p10/ now!

Gov't forming revenue performance review body

By Michelle V. Rosca

ECONOMIC managers are now laying down the groundwork for the smooth implementation of the recently ratified bilateral taxation law, which provides a reward and punishment system for officials and employees of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs.

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin said the government's economic team now must work during on the establishment of the Revenue Performance Evaluation Board, the body that will be tasked to develop performance standards for the BIR and the BOC and to draft the law's implementing rules and regulations.

"We already directed our technical staff to draft and prepare the guidelines. We want the guidelines to be issued as soon as possible now that the law has been ratified," Boncodin said in a telephone interview.

The board will be an inter-agency body to be composed of officials of the Department of Budget and Management, the Department of Finance and National Economic and Development Authority. The board will draft the criteria and mechanism for the granting of bonuses, if any, as well as for the imposition of penalty.

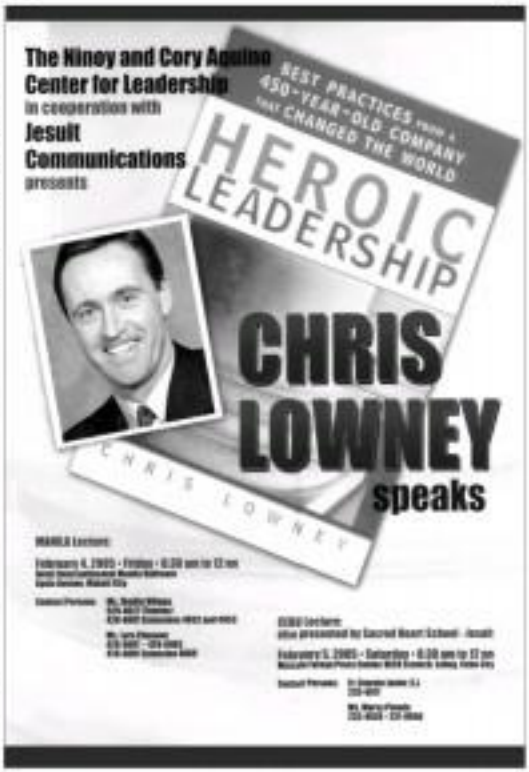
The latest taxation law, is expected to improve the government's fiscal health, as it will require the BIR and the BOC to meet revenue collection targets, which the board will set. Employees and officials who surpass their targets will be given monetary incentives, while those who will fall into the dismissal line will be sacked.

The law requires that 20 percent of the excess in the collection of the BIR and the BOC be allotted for incentives. It also states that revenue and customs employees and officials who will miss their collection targets by at least 7.5 percent may be terminated. The Universal, however, will be subject to civil service laws.

The latest taxation law was passed by the bicameral conference committee of Congress and ratified by President Macapal Arroyo last week. The law's approval came after ratings firm Standard & Poor's downgraded the Philippines' foreign currency debt rating, and after the BIR reported that it had missed its 2004's 5-billion revenue collection goal by 2004 by 90 billion.

RENEWABLE ENERGY DATABASE

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. (center) checks the system provided by IT consulting firm Soluziona Philippines for the development of renewable energy database and information exchange system. The system will be used for Capacity Building to Remove Barriers to Renewable Energy Development or CBREE project, an advocacy project to promote and establish financial mechanism that will encourage investors to bring in renewable energy to the country. With Perez are (from left) UNDP deputy resident representative Ilya Hadas, CBREE project management office director Francisco B. Benitez and Ruben Lumbreras, Soluziona managing consultant for utilities and energy



DOF says gov't to rely more on local borrowings in '05

By Michelle V. Rosca

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance said it would stick to its plans to ensure the government's 2005 financing requirements from the domestic market to reduce foreign exchange risks.

Finance Undersecretary Eric Rocto said the DOF would observe a 60-40 borrowing mix, wherein 60 percent of the government's borrowings for the year would come from domestic sources, while 40 percent would be generated offshore.

The DOF position was counter to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas recommendation for the government to resort to more foreign loan savings to conserve the country's gross international reserves (GIR).

The Development Budget Coordinating Committee (DBCC), the inter-agency body tasked to set government's economic policies and targets, suggested that the government could go as far as a 80:20 borrowing mix. But according to the DOF, it does not intend to undertake the maximum amount of foreign borrowings.

The GIR, or the country's total foreign currency holdings used to pay foreign debts, stood at $16.027 billion in end-2004. The figure was better than the BSP's target of only $14 billion to $15 billion, but lower than the $16.166 billion recorded in end-2003.

Rocto, who is in charge of the government's foreign borrowings, said the government would borrow $4 billion offshore this year, either through bond issues or official development assistance. The $4 billion is equivalent to 40 percent of the government's total financing requirement for the year.

Of the $4 billion, $3 billion will be used to satisfy the national government's new financing needs, while the $1 billion will be set aside for the borrowing requirements of state-owned National Power Corp.

Bicol seeks way out of list . . .

From page B9

BIDC V in response to the need for an integrated area-wide development strategy that will address several problems plaguing the region.

The project is estimated to cost P23.9 billion.

Bellmo also cited the Bicol River Basin Watershed Management Project, a six-year development project that will balance resource development with natural resources management.

It covers 33 municipalities and three cities, cutting across the provinces of Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur and Albay with an estimated budget of P2.6 billion.

"Some of the projects are not totally for the specific provinces but for Bicol in general," Bellmo said.

The BIDC V is also pushing for projects like the Luzon Consolidated Interconnection project, which includes the installation of 500kv substation lines, substation and submarine cable costing P6565 million; proposed new Legazpi City airport of international standards at 40.000-hectare, Albay, with a P3.4-billion budget.

The P260.8-million Daraga Port is almost 88 percent complete as of September 2004, and scheduled to be in place by March.

Among major infra projects lined up for this year are the P2.5-billion Tanauan port-based plant in Batangas, Calabanga-Pamplona road project, P796.5-million, rehabilitation and reconstruction of the Philippine National Railways mainline south and Sorsogon extension project, P48.9 million; Tiwi Geothermal Power Plant rehabilitation project, more than P100.8 million; Naga-Tabgo Diesel Power Plant with P26.9-million; and Marbela City-Milagros road project, P35 million.

Another project in the pipeline for Masbate province is the San Fernando-Aroroy road concreting with an estimated project cost of P400 million.

Aside from the said major infra projects, the BDC and its secretariat, the Bicol, are still continuing social development projects such as the Kapit Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan (Kalahi) program, the 5th and 6th Country Program for Children, Bicol health services delivery enhancement program, Women's Health and Motherhood Project 2, and the Bicol Integrated Development Master Plan," Bellmo said.

"There are lots of social, economic and infrastructure development projects in Bicol, and we're hoping that more projects will come, especially in Masbate and Camarines Norte," she added.

OFWs vow to remit more funds to RP

By Cecille E. Fernandez
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY – They already brought in $8 billion in remittances last year, but the country's "bayani" are willing to do more to help their battered Philippines.

About 750 Filipinos sending money home, who were here for the 3rd Global Filipino Networking Convention, vowed to do their share to alleviate the country's economic woes.

Linda Nicolas Lewis, chair of the National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA) that organized the convention, said Filipinos working abroad were even willing to deposit $1,000 in the local banks, just to increase the country's foreign reserves.

"That is something that we can do," she told President Macapagal-Arroyo in a speech during the dinner for the delegates at the Cebu Business Park's La Guera Area Friday night.

If this happens, she said it would mean $8 billion in foreign reserves in the country, from about 8 million Filipinos working abroad.

Lewis is the chair and chief executive officer of TLC Beyond International Holdings Inc., a food giant based in the US and Canada generating in $1.3 billion in 1995.

Lewis said the coup would also serve to help in financing to help the country's position at this point.

"No only Filipinos abroad who have the extra money can help in micro finance," she said to make the poor self-sufficient in the barrios and in the barangays.

While the overseas Filipinos promised to continue helping the country, Lewis asked President Arroyo to "lead the Philippines" to the path of peace and prosperity.

"Our hope and prayers are with you. Your dreams and vision of the future for our countrymen are our dreams and vision too," she added.

President Arroyo, in her speech, thanked the overseas Filipinos for their help, but in the same time asked them to continue to be involved in the country's development.

"Let us bring Pinoy Power worldwide and help us at home," she added.

Ms. Arroyo said the overseas Filipinos could already help a lot if they deposit their dollar savings in the local banks "because the interest is same abroad, you also earn here at home where your money is more needed."

The dollar deposits, she added, may not be as big as $1,000, but can still help boost the country's dollar reserves.

The President also asked them to set up a lobby group to protect the country's interest and to increase their monthly remittances now by at least $50.

She also called on them to retire to the Philippines "as a place of your choice and in the company of someone that you love."

Ms. Arroyo told the overseas Filipinos that the Philippines is the best place to spend their retirement years because "your pesos has more value and health care is both excellent and affordable."

Aside from this, she also asked them to support her 10-point agenda and to continue their dedication to the Dream a Dream project.

"I'm calling on all Filipinos to carry the country," the President said. "It's time to step down barriers and build up hope and optimism at the start of the new year."

The 3rd Global Network, which opened on Thursday and ended yesterday, was participated in by about 750 representatives of Filipino associations in Canada, US, Denmark, United Kingdom, Australia, among others.

The convention carried a theme "Pinoy Power Worldwide" with the aim to encourage Filipino overseas to participate actively in assisting the Philippine economy's overall recovery.

NaFFAA founding chair Alex Esclamado said the leaders of the 72,000 Filipino associations abroad planned to form an umbrella organization to promote and protect the interest of Filipinos abroad.

The umbrella group, he added, would also help promote the unification of country in the Philippines by making sure that at least 20 percent of the money they sent to their relatives would be invested in small businesses.

Esclamado, a businessman and founder of US based Philippine News, pointed out that they would do even their relatives that money would stop flowing from abroad if all the money they sent would just be spent and not invested.

"Something must be left to grow," he added.

Esclamado said they also planned to ask each of the 1,000 Filipino associations abroad to commit and raise some $50,000, which will be invested in the regions where their members belong.

The money, he added, could be channeled through the umbrella organization, which would be called Global Confederation of Filipino Associations.

The organization would also shape the country's political future as the members would soon vote as a bloc, said Esclamado.

"In our numbers resides our powerful strength. This country needs a model citizen that is intelligent enough not to be bought," he added.

Esclamado said they would also tell their relatives not to sell their votes or else the government stopped.

Asked where the organization would be formed, he said it would be before the 2007 elections.

CHILDREN make a peace sign during the recent 7 Farmers here are seeking the passage of more law the Philippines.

Gov't cuts '05 deficit target to ₱177B

By Norman Bordadora
Inquirer News Service

investor confidence will also help achieve a possibly better fiscal standing this year.

Outgoing Finance Secretary Juanita Amatong earlier said she sees 2005 deficit target already with zero account the P78 billion additional revenue from the law raising rates on cigarettes and alcohol, which was enacted last month, and the increases in fees and charges by several government agencies.

She also said the government was poised to collect a substantial amount, although she could not specify a figure, from the implementation of EO 390, which President Macapagal-Arroyo signed this month. The EO exempts from tax audit taxpayers who will voluntarily raise by 30 percent the assessment of their 2004 liabilities from that of their previous year's tax payments.

The new deficit target for 2005 also considers the P18 billion worth of obligations of state-owned National Power Corp. that the national government will assume this year. The government decided to assume P200 billion worth of Napocor debts, but the debt absorption will be gradual, and that only P18 billion, which represents maturing power payments, will be absorbed this year.

Amatong said that despite the assumption of Napocor debts, the 2005 deficit would still be lower than the original target of P194.1 billion because the additional revenue would more than compensate for it.

BSP agrees to accre

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has agreed to accredit the bank supervisory purposes, international rating agencies that have a representative office in the country.

The BSP announced on Friday that its policy-making Monetary Board had agreed last week to recognize global credit rating agencies that would undertake local or national ratings for the risk weighting of loan financial instructions required by the banking system.

"In addition to providing an avenue empowered the deepening of the Philippine capital market, the opening of the domestic credit rating market to international players is also expected to upgrade the rating standards in the country as well as provide both investors and regulators with credible alternative sources of credit rating," the BSP said.

UK-based Standard & Poor's, the pioneer, has a local operating office in the Philippine for the for-

h Global Push Against Child Labor in Manila
n protecting child laborers and their education
ppinesgate.com

HEDGING TOOL

Banks revive trading of FX options

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE LOCAL banking community is set to revive, starting today, the trading of foreign exchange (FX) options in order to widen the array of hedging tools.

The Bankers Association of the Philippines, in coordination with ACI Philippines, the country's association of forex traders, recently released the guidelines for FX options and US dollar options for prescribed banks with expanded dealership licenses.

ACI president Ann Emmanuel Hilado said the revival of the local FX options market would complement the moves of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to deepen the local financial market, the trend that bank options were considered important financial instruments in major financial centers abroad like New York, Tokyo, Singapore and London.

FX options is an agreement between two parties that entitles the holder of the contract the right to buy (call option) or sell (put option) foreign exchange at a specified price from or to the issuer of the contract within a particular period of time.

The holder of the contract has the right to exercise (choice) granted to the option contract but is not obligated to do so. The issuer of the contract, or the writer, is obligated to honor the contract once the holder of the option exercises his right. In FX options, what is being bought or sold is the right to buy or sell foreign exchange at a pre-determined price within a specific time frame.

"With the launch of the overbank market, local clients will now have an alternative hedging tool. Currently, hedging of forex obligations are done through the use of FX forward contracts," Hilado said.

Progressing on the re-launch of the local bank FX option market, the BSP released Circular 443 last August 2004 which provided the guidelines for the recognition of positions arising from FX options. Trading of FX options will also follow existing regulations on the sale of foreign exchange.

Trading of FX options will initially be limited to banks with expanded dollar derivatives licenses. Banks without expanded licenses can, however, execute FX options for their clients by hedging with banks with the appropriate licenses.

Hilado explained that FX options could be used as an alternative protection mechanism against adverse movement in foreign exchange. FX options, as compared to forward instruments, give the holder flexibility since there is no obligation to act.

Forward contracts, on the other hand, require the holder to buy or sell the FX while FX options give the holder the right but not the obligation to buy or sell the FX. The cost of buying the option is called a premium.

"FX options limit the cost of hedging to the amount of premium paid. For example, if a client is hedging against a depreciation of the peso against the dollar by buying a call option for a specified strike price, the client may exercise the right to buy if the peso has depreciated," Hilado said.

dit rating agencies

...Mona Ditching Angel...

...Hedging expressions office sees the investment requirements set by the Monetary Board for the accreditation.

...In September 2003, the BSP issued Circular 484 to regulate in the introduction of the financial markets of products that ensure increasing demand for and reliance on credit rating agencies by industry players and regulators.

"In cases that reliance on these credit rating agencies is not substituted, the BSP said, it sees the guidelines for the recognition and de-recognition of guidelines, with rating issued by rating agencies recognized by the BSP shall be considered for bank supervisory purposes.

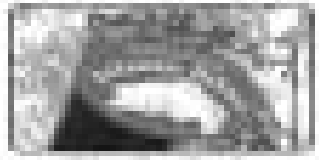
"But services of credit rating agencies, for instance, are required to downgrading risk weights in determining compliance with existing rules and regulations on risk-based capital requirements.

So far, only Philratings has been accredited by the BSP for bank supervisory purposes.

Panalo ka sa kakaibang negosyong ito!

Roland

Cut signs like pros!



Tyrai

BUSINESS

NEAR-TERM PROSPECTS OK

BSP sees stable outlook in 6 mos

BUENAVENTURA

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES may have to wait for at least a year to get another chance to improve its credit rating from Standard & Poor's, Moody's Investor Service or Fitch Ratings, according to Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura.

But, according to the BSP chief, the good news is there is a real possibility that the major global rating firms may change their outlook on the Philippines to "stable" or more "positive" in the next three to six months.

Also, the country may likely retain its investment grade rating with Japan Rating and Investment Information Inc. (Japan R&I), which is currently in view to conduct its own review on sovereign debt ratings, Buenaventura said.

The BSP chief said the raising woes from Japan R&I, in a dialogue with economic managers last week, raised their concerns over the same fiscal issues that prompted S&P to lower the country's long-term sovereign foreign currency debt rating to BB- from BB.

But Buenaventura said the Japanese credit rating agency was "more pragmatic" and thus unlikely to follow the S&P's move.

"I think there might be a chance," Buenaventura said. "It's a question of whether they will accept our word that the key tax measures will be passed.

"They are more interested in how much revenue will be raised rather than which ones will be passed. As long as it will generate P80 billion, that's good enough for them."

In a statement, S&P said it had lowered its expectations that the government would be able to raise tax receipts materially from the current low level of 12 percent of gross domestic product and that the government's debt burden would move to a deeper downward trend.

With the public sector debt at 130 percent of GDP and government interest expense at nearly 40 percent of revenue, S&P had said prompt passage of the government's fiscal plan was necessary to support the Philippines' long-run debt-service levels.

For its part, London-based Fitch Ratings upped the Philippines from a debt rating downgrade list December, but changed its outlook to "negative" from "stable" due to heightened concerns on fiscal vulnerabilities.

A "negative" outlook indicates that a downgrade is possible in the near term while a "positive" outlook indicates a possible upgrade. A "stable" outlook means that the current rating may be maintained in the near term.

Moody's, which is scheduled to send its own review team next month, is said to be finding it more difficult to justify keeping its current rating on the Philippines. Buenaventura said evident positive developments on the legislation of tax measures in Congress, Moody's could follow S&P's action.

The BSP chief said the appetite for Philippine bonds was still good and the government could still tap the foreign debt market for its financing requirements this year.

"It's still doable, except that we're paying on the high side," Buenaventura said. "They are still saying in the short term we have adequate reserves, the growth is still there, inflation although on the high side is not out of control and interest rates are still relatively low. The near term is all right.

"The concern is on debt sustainability, that if we fail to pass these measures there will come a point when we will have a debt problem paying a down. That's when we'll lose access to the international capital market."

Buenaventura said it was important that the Philippines get a change in outlook from "negative" to "stable" in the next three to six months and, from thereon, target a further change to a "positive" outlook.

"What's important is if the outlook is stable or positive, because the market will start discounting it," he said. "The moment we see [given a] positive [outlook], the pricing of Philippine bonds will be as though we are upgraded already."

Eco-friendly fuel cause gets boost from USAID

NITA FUGOSO announces from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), non-governmental organization Blue Climate Change Center is currently setting up the Clean Transport Technology Development (CTTC) to promote the use of environment friendly transport fuel and technologies.

The CTTC will, upon completion, contain relevant information on the use of clean transport technology as well as proper traffic management and driver discipline. These may soon be found on the Klima website—www.klima.ph.

Based on the CTTC fact sheet, the electronic database will be open to the general public and will serve as a hub of adequate and integrated information on how to save the environment through alternative transport technologies and practices.

The government is also pushing the use of alternative fuels since fuels that will not only serve to help save the environment but also help ease the country's dependence on imported fuels.

The Department of Energy is pushing for the mandatory use of a 20-percent ethanol blend with gasoline by 2010.

According to the DOE's updated Philippine Energy Plan (PEP), all land vehicles would be mandated to sell gasoline blended with at least 20 percent of ethanol as their service stations by 2010.

The government is also pushing the use of coco methyl ester (CME) as a diesel blend.

Several years down the line, by mount 2008 and 2014, President Macapagal-Arroyo had earlier mandated CME use would become a renewable mandate, taking the use of CME-blended diesel capable of government firms and into the realm of the everyday diesel vehicle owners.

The automobile mandatory use of a 1-percent to 5-percent CME blend should drive down imported fuel dependency by 2 percent, she said. Abigail L. Ho

Your donation will give you a book and song on the Infanta we want to restore

A book entitled "Isleta Passage to the Pacific," published by BPI Foundation, together with the Doña Isabel Garcia y Fernandez Trust Fund, and a CD of an original song, "Wasak Ka, Infanta," will go to donors of the flood victims there.

The book shows a town that deserves to be restored and rehabilitated. Authors include Conrad de Quiros, Cielito Habito, Fr. Francis Lucas, Babeth Lobrega, Annie Tayag, Melaya Faina Philaforents and Art Camiga. Outstanding photos are by Ernie Dawood and Ray Lazo. The song is by Noel Cabangon.

BPI Foundation Executive Director Ayo Tajan-Mapa will oversee the donations through Fr. Lucas, president of the Infanta Integrated Community Development Assistance Inc. (ICDAI) and president of the Catholic Media Network.

A copy of the book and a CD will be given free for every PP1,000.00 each donation. Individuals, office colleagues or families may choose to pool their donations to receive their/s of the book and CD.

This campaign is supported by the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

My Help to Infanta

Name _____
Company _____
Contact Nos. _____

Please check below the amount you are pledging
☐ P1,000.00 ☐ P4,000.00 ☐ P5,000.00 ☐ _____ (other amount)

You may clip this portion and send it to the address below. You may mail it or e-mail. Please call us for pick-up.

INFANTA FUND CAMPAIGN
BPI Foundation Inc.
6/F Ayala Life-FGU Center
6811 Ayala Avenue cor. Paseo de Roxas
Makati City

We thank you very much for your generous response to our campaign. Your donation will help restore the lives of our brothers and sisters in Infanta.

NTC threatens to sanction Globe

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE NATIONAL Telecommunications Commission has threatened to sanction Globe Telecom Inc. for failing to comply with its directive that its spread fixed line rate would be offered on a permanent basis when the NTC disapproved it for 20 days.

It Jan. 13, NTC order allowed Globe's wholly-owned Innove Communications Inc. to offer its unlimited fixed dialing services for a period not exceeding 30 days upon the receipt of the memo.

The Commission also allowed Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. to continue with its Plan 2000 until Jan. 31.

"The Commission issued a memo to Innove dated Jan. 10 asking it to explain in writing why they came up with an advertisement saying that it is offering the SLIL rates on a permanent basis," said NTC chief Ronald Solis.

He stressed that the NTC had not yet approved Innove's promo dubbed as "one rate, one rate." The company's pitch, Solis said, constitutes false advertising.

"If Innove's explanation is not satisfactory, then we can impose sanctions," said Solis. "That's the aim not to embarrass with what we allowed them to do. Our 20-day approval was just for a provisional basis and not permanent."

Solis said the commission had asked relevant companies to submit a position paper to help the NTC come up with a decision, as to whether major players have engaged in predatory landline pricing at the expense of smaller operators.

The regulator said it was also evaluating existing promos and plans, which could lead to the imposition of appropriate offer cap unlimited calls and even cap for a fixed fee.

Solis said that while the Commission supports the loosening of telecom caste to benefit the public, it must also guard against existence competition that would prevent smaller players from operating.

Meralco works out 2nd tranche of ₱30-B refund

By Abigail L. Ho

AFTER getting the Energy Regulatory Commission's approval for it to implement the first tranche of the fourth phase of its P30-billion refund scheme, the Lopez-led Manila Electric Co. is now exploring other options on how to implement the second tranche of the customer rebate.

While standing in its earlier opinion of availing the refunds to customers' future bills and issuing zero coupon "refund notes," Meralco board director Christian Monsod said the company was also looking at the option of issuing promissory checks to customers entitled to refunds under the second tranche of phase 4.

"That should be decided in the next few months," Monsod said. "But it seems that, based on earlier consultations, the plurality prefers the refund to be issued in check form."

Meralco is now preparing to implement the fourth and last phase of a Supreme Court-mandated refund for overcharges from November 1996 to April 2000.

The last phase, which covers commercial and industrial clients, is the costliest among all the refund phases as this involves about P1.6 billion, more than 60 percent of the total refundable amount.

After releasing its order for Meralco's implementation of the first tranche of the last phase of the refund scheme, the ERC is now ordering the power distributor to submit its proposal for the second tranche of the fourth phase of the refund.

Meralco had earlier proposed that the second tranche of the refund scheme's fourth phase be implemented in two ways: either to have the amount credited to future bills or have the amount come in the form of "refund notes" or zero coupon bonds with a maturity of 60 months.

At present, Monsod said the company was willing to explore other options for the tranche.

The proposed check scheme was just one option, he added.

While preparing its proposal for the second tranche of the refund's fourth phase, Meralco is also awaiting a Bureau of Internal Revenue order that will map out the process of issuing a withholding agent for taxes to be charged on customers entitled to rebates under phase 4.

As the BIR informed Meralco that it would have to be a withholding agent for taxes due to customers who would be entitled to refunds, Monsod said a specific order would have to come from the BIR for the refund to be implemented.

PC BUYER'S GUIDE
MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 2005
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
LIFESTYLE
MONDAY ARTS & BOOKS • TUESDAY FITNESS • WEDNESDAY SEX • THURSDAY FOOD • FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY

It's the National Arts Month again—against all odds

THE ARTS and culture may have the least priority in the government's budget and the lawmakers' pork barrel. But they continue to thrive against all odds, which should be evident when the nation marks the Arts Month next month.

Organized by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), the 2005 Arts Month will have the theme, "Buying Energy: Crafting Literature for Social Transformation." It will formally open on Sunday, Jan. 30, at the Cultural Center of the Philippines and the Rajah Sulaiman Park, Roxas Blvd., Malate, Manila.

Perhaps the most unique program of this year's National Arts Month is the weekly flag ceremony in Malacañang throughout February which will feature cultural and artistic performances. President Macapagal-Arroyo will lead the flag raising.

Banner

The banner projects of the Arts Month are:

Sayaw Pinoy. A nationwide concert of various dance forms to be participated in by at least five dance groups, three from Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao, and two from Metro Manila. There will also be a forum to tackle the various concerns of the dance sector.

Environmental planning. A two-part series of episodic documentaries on environmental planning, capturing the nature and importance of the art and science of environment planning. It will feature interviews with the leading environmental planners of the country and the communities that have been environmentally planned and built, its problems, solutions and benefits.

TextPinoy. A nationwide poetry writing contest in three short messaging service (SMS), popularly known as texting. This is the third sequel to the successful 2003 and 2004 National Arts Month projects—the TriviTanaga and Dimasmos. Here as then, the contest seeks to utilize the mobile phone technology in the creation and promotion of different Philippine traditional poetic forms. For its third year, the contest will showcase the various regional forms—Ambahan (Tagalog), Tigmi (Ilocos), Pagsakon (Bikolay) and Pigma (Cebu). Watch for instances of Cinlo.

Cinema Pantasia 3. A festival of main-stream and non-mainstream Filipino films focused on the cutting-edge of technologies and new ways of looking at cinema. There will also be an exhibit of multimedia, multi-set installation.

Web Circling. A digital art concert that will challenge artists to explore electronic technology in art making.

National Theater Festival. A harvest of Filipino theater productions. It will consist of original plays by professional, community and school theater groups nationwide.

Rainbow Bloom Festival. A five-day festival of lectures, workshops and performances by performing groups from around the country at the Folk Arts Theater. It will showcase varied repertoire of bamboo musical traditions in the country. Musicologists, musicians and experts will present their findings as well as conduct workshops on the musicals, techniques, styles, origins, history

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo to lead weekly Arts Month observance in Malacañang flag ceremony

One blazing poetic burning

By Ralph Semino Galán
Contributor

Top poetess Ophelia Dimalanta will launch her collected poetry volume on Jan. 26

A LIVING writer who has devoted nearly an entire lifetime to the service of the Muse certainly deserves a retrospective compilation of the substantial body of work s/he has produced thus far. Such is the case of "The Ophelia A. Dimalanta Reader: Selected Poetry" (UST Publishing House, 2004, 240 pages), the first-ever institute's two-book series of her poems, short stories and essays, as well as the academic attention given to her oeuvre by top critics.

The first volume collates the best poems from the previous poetry collections, most of which have been published by the Manila Critics' Circle National Book Award-winning poet herself. The poems in the present compendium represent not only her personal favorites, but what the critic thinks are the most significant of her verse compositions. Having done her apologetics, we down on Dimalanta's first four collections, this critic could not help but agree with almost all of her choices.

Included in this personal anthology are the poems about being a woman in all her complexity from "Montage," the metamorphical travel poem from "The Time Factor," most timely poetry and how feminist dramatic monologues from "Flowing On." On lesser-inspired verses from "Lady Polyester," the Medusa-esque lyrics and commercial poems celebrating seven women revolutionaries from "Love Woman," as well as her spiritual/erotic musings from "Pentional."

But value is interesting about the book is the way the poems are arranged, for they are not sequenced in chronological order. Instead, the selected pieces are grouped together into five sections based on common leitmotifs: "I. On Poetry, Poets, and Music, 2. On Public Rhetoric and Transcendence, 3. On Life, Death, and the Beckoning In-between, 4. Montage: The Different Images of Women, and 5. Journeys: Persona, Places, Sites and Icons."

The first part presents her personal poetics, her own definition(s) of what her writing is all about, her encouragements beckoning what has finally been entered on art,/ ineffable as dawn's tea scent/ tightening fingers,/ a smile/ that never gets to the lips./" ("What Poetry Does For/Say"), "This strange music/ that keeps/ pounding/ against the cage of/ vision/ These lumpy verses/ truths/ filled into being/" ("Poesis: A Making"). Or that plain, unfilled lace of cords,/ for what is big and terrible, prime and painful and beautiful, any beyond-Nazca image, like love's quickest// (Role in Search of a Tragic Theme).

Most memorable lyrics

The second section contains some of her most memorable and mesmerizing lyrics, like "The Time Factor," in kind of stunning," "Out of the Mouths of Babes," "Under Lover," "Mayflower Pilgrims," "Summoning the Lake," "Love in a Contemporary Key," "Surreal Loves 1 and 2" and "Threatened," to name a few. "Surreal Love," a relatively unknown poem except for those who are avid followers of Dimalanta's poetry, is an excellent example of her more popular "I Kind of Herding": "On fri, orange,/ i still catch/ the round and waver/ of your every emerging thought/... like one elementary love,/ into the burning disc of this kind of dying./."

The selection in the third part contributes several extremely vivid reflections, as well as the experiences in between. The most significant of these pieces have the unsettling/burning house as its central metaphor, a catastrophe that did occur in August 1991. "On a Room About to Crumble" and "She Must Have to Die and Good" anticipate the actual destruction of the unit edifice to some sort of poetic prophecy, while "An Unobstructed View" and "One Final Burning" transform the tragedy into poetic experience, thus transcending it.

Images and imaginings of women bond dominate the fourth section. Ranging from the feminine and the feminist to the true female, the poems celebrate the multifarious and multiple aspects of the female identity. "Montage," "Amazonia," "Pat Story 1 and 2," and "Love Nirvana" depict the many faces of love as "complex, ...questioning ...shortened, prevailing./" "To the ladies fiancé, the guys and not-yet-now of motherhood are wellhalloed in "Doddering," "Birth," "Children and lovers," "Coming to Grief," and "Icon and Mothers." A series of feminist dramatic monologues and character sketches are presented in two subsections called "Our Sisters Our Zeroes" and "Other Voices Other Zones," respectively.

The last and longest part qualifies a travel poetry at its best. "Coasts Apart" describes the style of her journeying: "I get terribly anticipated/ in safety belts and contemplations/ mingling with camera-and-tongue/ and pantyhosed and homeboyed deals./." In terms of description and design, wit and wisdom, the truly gratifying pieces are "Pale Thoughts Upon a Pale City," "On a Slow Boat to Bohol," "The Rapes," "Siena," "Bandwidthing in Manila," "Flowing On," "The Heart of White Sand," "Dancing in the Rain," "Dancing in the Fountain of Trevi," "Dancing in the Fountain of Bernini," "Dancing in the Fountain of Neptune

José María Zaragoza, unappreciated architect

A WELCOME addition to the extremely limited bibliography on Philippine architecture, the monograph, "José María V. Zaragoza: Architecture for God and Man," reintroduces an unappreciated architect who practiced during a forgotten period in Philippine history.

In the monograph, Federico S. Delfin and Ma. Lourdes Zaragoza Ramos trace Zaragoza's professional achievements and personal philosophy developed during his career starting in 1926 and ending with his death in 1994. Archival images document his work. Recent photographs by Alberto Ilkow, the recent surviving Zaragoza architecture.

For years only Spanish colonial structures were considered as the narrow focus of Philippine architectural heritage. Public interest has slowly expanded to include the heritage of the American colonial period, although little appreciation exists for the architecture of the recent past and its significance to Philippine culture-development.

The monograph is one of the first to unveil that oversight. It is hoped it will inspire other writers and scholars to bring the past back into light.

Lost period

The last 30 years are a lost period in the collective Philippine memory. The immediate postwar period more momentous years, resulting in the halcyon days of political and economic stability of pre-Marcos Philippines.

It was a stimulating time. Asia recognized the Philippines as a regional leader whose quality of life ranked next to that of Japan. We were certainly no backwater country then.

The Philippines was the only totally Asian country blending Philippine, Spanish and American influences, drawing visitors from neighboring countries who travelled to Manila for inhalations of its exotic mix and milieu so evident in the unique lifestyle of the city and reflected in its architecture.

It was said that at that time that Manila, especially the sweeping seaside vista of Dewey (now Roxas) Boulevard, manifested a distinct visual identity unlike any other cityscape in Asia, a cityscape more attuned to the Latino one finds hundreds of feet de Janeiro or right and bay.

A PLAYFUL "gazebo" in the power district of Manila in the 1950s. Zaragoza's avant-circular building architecturally turns the corner from the foot of Jones Bridge leading to the Escolta.

PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto F. Villalon

The builder of the Santo Domingo Church, Casino Espanol and Spanish style residences developed his own vision of 'Philippine architecture'

ARCHES in the Santo Domingo Church shrine in Quezon City reinterpret Spanish colonial architecture in the undecorated style of post-war 1950s, a powerful but still unappreciated example of modern Philippine architecture.

VERTICAL concrete fins shade the Meralco Building interiors from direct sunlight while the concave shape adds a subtle elegance to the facade.

ARCHITECTURAL rendering of Viva Mall (unconstructed 1975, demolished 2005) demonstrates the Latino-influenced lyricism of Zaragoza's architecture that successfully combines form with function.

SCULPTURAL forms seen in concrete find the ceiling skywards at the Don Bosco Church in Makati (1977).

THE INFLUENCE of Zaragoza's collaboration with Brazilian architects Niemeyer and Costa is evident in the folded concrete plates that crown Union Church in Makati (constructed 1975, now demolished).

style." Grounded in Philippine architectural vocabulary he distilled traditional forms derived from the Spanish colonial era into the simplified, unornamented shapes of the International style of the 1930s.

The arches of the Santo Domingo Church Convent in Quezon City is classic 1950s Zaragoza architecture: simple, unornamented, modern but unmistakably redolent with references to colonial architecture in the Philippines without its baroque trappings.

Strong impact

The strong impact of Zaragoza on Philippine houses is likewise unrecognized. His designs developed the visual framework for the popular "Spanish style" of architecture favored by residences of the 1950s and '60s.

Although no such style exists in Spain, the genre was called "Spanish style" in Philippine residential architecture. Most discussed is Zaragoza's 1953 Casino Espanol de Manila that still survives in complete condition on San Luis St. between Taft Avenue and San Marcelino in central Manila.

The Casino Espanol features a series of massive concrete arches framed with rounded leggia, arched door and window openings. Terra cotta tile frames the edges of hare-pitched roofs. Heavily varnished wooden beams support sloping interior ceilings. In the rooms are vast expanse tile floors and plain painted concrete walls.

That was the prototype of houses built during the era, many of which still survive today. It was modernized architecture in appearance to the point of the time that reflected the Spanish architectural roots of the Philippine lifestyle that was here when the era ended.

In 1950s he internationally renowned architects Oscar Niemeyer and Lucio Costa invited Zaragoza to be among the guest architects participating in the massive project of designing Brasilia, the new capital for Brazil.

The Latino inspiration Zaragoza was indelible.

His post-Brasil work, notably the facades of the Meralco Center on Ortigas Avenue and Philbanking building in Port Area (both built in 1960) and the Commercial Bank and Trust Company building in Escolta, Manila (1967) dominate the middle flow ing Latino lines of Brazilian architecture.

Evoking Niemeyer's cathedral in Brasilia, Zaragoza created Union Church in Makati (built 1975, now demolished) with a crown of folded concrete plates.

He follows the tradition of South American architecture of exploiting the exuberant plasticity of concrete to construct flowing, sculptural designs for Viva Mall in Greenhills (built 1975, demolished January 2005), Saint John Bosco Parish Church in Makati (1977) and Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Shrine in Iloilo, Panaderos (1979).

In the time line charting the development of Philippine architecture, the contributions by Zaragoza are unrecorded. This monograph is the first step at documenting these contributions and in making architects, educators, historians and the public aware of José María V. Zaragoza and his place in that forgotten period of Philippine history.

Published in MCMXXXIX, "José María V. Zaragoza, the Architect for God, for Man," is available at Fully Booked in Power Plant Mall, Makati. Proceeds will benefit a Zaragoza family. Area rugs grace the study. Contact publications@artpostasia.com

E-mail your feedback to ghirlando@hotmail.com

Painting the landscape within

By Gino Dee Ilarmendo
Contributor

"THE LANDSCAPE genre has evolved. Though artists tend to make use of landscapes to bring out the inherent beauty of creation, there are artists who incorporate their own beliefs and values, not to mention their style, into the genre.

One artist who has spent a good deal time refining artistic sentiments and adapting to changing climes and time zones is the 35-year-old Rudel Tapaya Garcia, grand prize winner of the 2002 Nokia Arts Awards, which have regrettably been suspended.

As part of his prize, the artist was able to go for further art training to the Pantone School of Design in New York and the University of Art and Design in Helsinki, Finland.

He held a solo exhibit, "Balangkas," at the Boulet Gallery last year, and took part in numerous group shows, including the "Canvas" group show at the Ateneo Museum and the "Sinukuan: Stasis" shown at the CCP Small Gallery with Lito Aviado, Saudi Ahmad and John Frank Salcedo, also last year.

In "Between Paintings," Chi-a Small Gallery, Old Megamall, until Jan. 31), Garcia proves the natural he was taken for was 20 into no drama. Rather, he returns to his perennial turf of landscapes, mainly by way of maps, using graphs and grids, as well as lines, textures and colors.

"RED Trends I"

Endowing the representation of land scapes, the artist is evidently more obsessed now with both the expanse (as in the horizon) and the depth (the inside layers). But it is the element of texture that redoubles memory since most of the works have been saturated with generous layers of paint molded and shaped to resemble the earth's crust, suggesting the very act of unveiling the past.

Provocative

The most provocative work is the "Landscape Series," made up of 12 identically-sized canvas, measuring 8" x 8," and which had been mounted, rather, scattered around the gallery walls. These evidently smallish works may not have the scope and impact of the artist's larger works, also mounted as groupings, like mix and match pieces, but they are no less intriguing as they resist one-by-one and the total.

The colors of the landscapes are far from the usual kind of bathetic, as they are closer to the earth's hues. Presumably, too, the artist has taken a more expansive view of the topography than those botanical gateways, and, given the present state of the earth, it is a pleasure undistractedly bedevilled by nature's own wonders.

The artist, true to being an astute visualizer himself, has ensured that the spontaneous and the considered have an equal role to play together with the horizontal-vertical interplay which is cleverly articulated by textures here and there, seductively orchestrated by the unbridled lustlap at the fringes of the canvas.

The artist has, from the start, been obsessed with the grid, as in his Rothko-attuning "Deconstruction," to which the structure of the colors have coincided with the Filipino's overarching need for high-tech gadgets shrink-mobile phones and laptops. In the current show, the grid assumes the dominant role

"HORIZON at Night"

age, subsuming the schematic lying beneath it.

The current works amply prove that as an artist continues to deepen and broaden his perspective of the world, retaining the child's precocious sense of wonder fueled by an imagination that consistently the personal to the global.

E-mail the author at ghirlando@yahoo.com

Parade, street dance, concert to open 2005 Arts Month

MONIQUE Wilson

THE NATIONAL Arts Month 2005 will open on Jan. 30 with a parade at 4:30 p.m. from the Cultural Center of the Philippines to the Rajah Sulayman Park on Roxas Blvd., where a concert will be held at 6.

The National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) with Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and the Cultural Center of the Philippines organized the festivities.

Participating in the parade and street dance are the winners of the Carnaval Festival of Makati City under Mayor Jejomar Binay; Tanghalang Bagong Likha of Malabon under Mayor Canuto Bravo Oreta; Lubanderi Festival of Mandaluyong under Mayor Reginald Tomas Jr., the winners of the Bahjan-Bahjan Festival of Marikina under Mayor Marides Carlos Fernando; the Manila Band; and the Philippine Navy Band.

To perform on the streets are seven Manila public schools, the Kabataang Ng Maynila, Youth Ng Maynila and others.

The concert will see performances by the Quezon City Ballet of the Ballet Arts School of Ballet, University of the East (UE) Dance Troupe, Philippine Normal University Kalap Dalag, Lyceum Dance Troupe, UE Chorale, UE Band, University of Santo Tomas (UST) Wind Orchestra, Lahing Kayumanggi, Kasalikha Philippine Ensemble, Mandaluyo Dance Troupe under Mayor Jaime Fresnedi and Vice-Mayor Abelardo San Pedro, St. Scholastica's High School Chorale, University of the Philippines Dance Company, Manila Dance Scholars, Bardbaroos, Lenran Dance Troupe, Witch Witkin, Ambot Cabading, Monique Wilson, Cleo Dela Cruz-Lorenz, Cirrup Laurel, Nonoy Landicho and Regine Medina.

Kim Atienza will emcee the concert, as will Luis and Ruby Dolarita will anchor the parade.

The launching-closing ceremonies is led by Grace Carbungco as project director and Shirley Habili Cruz as artistic director, with Marichu Vidanes, Alvin Montes and Perdie Idioma as members.

RUTH Cabading

CECIL Golden-Rivera

COCOY Laurel

CHIN CHIN Gutierrez

HECKY Feliciano

It's the National Arts Month again ...

Homepage A-1

ethnography, cultural concerns, playing techniques, instrument-making and other aspects of the Southeast musical tradition.

Pelikula at Lipunan. A nationwide film festival that documents renewed interest in Philippine films, short films, and documentaries. For this year, there will be the "Tribute to Eduardo Cisneros," "Tribute to the King of Philippine Movies: Leopoldo Rivas, Jr." and the launching of "The Child Friendly Cinema." Venues: Jan. 26-28, SM City Cebu, Cebu City; Feb. 15-17, SM City Iloilo, Iloilo City; and Feb. 22-27, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong.

National Artist on Radio. This is a daily month-long program popularizing the literary works of National Artists F. Sionil Jose, Nick Joaquin, and Alejandro Roces. Monday to Friday, 9:30 p.m., dzRB.

Arts Month Features in the Seat of Government. There will be performances and exhibitions every Monday during the flag-raising ceremony at Malacañang with President Macapagal-Arroyo. There will also be an oral heritage exhibits in the Supreme Court, House of Representatives and Senate.

For information about the 2005 National Arts Month, call 527-2192 locals 412-415 or e-mail info@ncca.gov.ph.

LIFESTYLE

Though seriously ill, she magically transformed the battleship-gray bridge into a stunning outdoor sculpture in incandescent hues

THE LATE artist snuggled against concrete details penning Singapore's Jubilee Bridge.

Closing Pacita Abad's circle of wanderlust

Text by Corinthia C. Ibarra
Photos by August dela Cruz

IN A BURST of orange, yellow and red, Cassie Alviza surfaced down the stage and modeled her technicolor dreamcoat inspired by the art of Pacita Abad. Then the Philippine National Museum director delivered a bronze on "the artist who painted the globe."

The 5th Solecito Translation Lecture to Honor a Filipino Visual Artist was one of the highlights of "Beyond the Fronts Abad," held recently at the Museo in Manila (the week 40 days after Abad's death from lung cancer in Singapore).

The tribute was presented by the Ateneo Library of Women's Writings (Alwow), an archival program for the personal papers of creative Filipino women, predicably writers and visual artists. Focused by Alwow member Rilyn Prudente Sta. Maria, it also marked the program's 15th anniversary.

Joyful remembrances were offered by Jun Findlay Strong, Agrar, art News chief editor and Abad's biographer, the particular remembered the artist's extraordinary kindness, even in those who had been wishful to her.

Dreyfel Bro. Marcos cite Abad said his stu- ing, who took up Pe- friend forever at UP had intended to pro- ceed to law school and was being groomed in politics by their parents, who were representatives of their home provinces Batanes. (He was among the 19 artists battling with the Marcos administration.

"He had no inkling she would become an artist," he continued. "She never showed any inclination to art... until, of course, many for her own shirt, big bangles, and sometimes colorful tails... It's when she held her first show in the country, in what is now Crate Hotel, we were asking ourselves, Where did she get that?"

Energy and inspiration

For the real question might well be, "Where did she get the energy?"

Abad's husband, American investment banker Jack Lasry, recalled the journeys she took with his artist. Her cartoonist through 11 years, working in over-50-countries, producing over 1,500 artworks to inspire her ranging from canvas and paper to batik cloth, metal, ceramics and glass.

The woman was indefatigable even in her last few years, when she was seriously ill. She had shows him her calendar for 2005 and it was filled with shows and activities.

EXCITING TRIPS & ADVENTURES
Super promo!!! On 27-30 Jan. @ P5,000.00/person

Men's mag with a twist

MIG-CBN Publishing, a leader in the glossy magazine industry, has launched hi!M, a daring new concept in men's fashion and lifestyle.

While traditional glossy magazines have served female audiences, hi!M reflects the global trend of gender convergence to kick off the magazine's new beginning on pick up. hi!M demonstrates men's growing exterior with their own vanity and interest in fashion and design.

The debut issue of the magazine features cutting-edge men's fashion photographers and stylists. And it's exotic and very sophisticated mix. The magazine also features men in various modes of fashion, including a fully exposed direction.

This has created controversy in some circles, but hi!M's creators are unconcerned. After all, fashion is ultimately a celebration of the body.

"In today's typical western's fashion magazine, there are many shots of nude or partially unclothed women, yet one hardly ever sees homoerotic labels on them. Why shouldn't men's magazines be just as standard as nude shots of the body?", asks the magazine's brand manager Sandy Serrano. "hi!M is for people who like men, and that includes men who like themselves."

hi!M also offers entertaining information, such as a personal fashion and grooming guide, including tips on skincare, scents, how to deal with a hangover, classic recipes for household emergencies and controls that may have been hidden all over men.

There's a sex advice column by one "Eva" specifically on dealing with a male sexual partner, plus an erogenous zone of the male body is featured with a double-page spread photo of a male nude.

Yet, address remains a mystery to the readership, as the writers refer Carlo Tadiar to his editor's note. "Nothing sexy is a fundamental aspect of this magazine. It's for people who are neither just metrosexuals or homosexuals," Tadiar explains.

hi!M is available at leading bookstores and newsstands. Call 4102892.

YAM heartthrob, MTV VJ, UC, is cover boy

FASHION story on elegant tropical suite in hi!M Magazine

Rare evening of contemporary works

By Antonio C. Hila
Contributor

THE PHILIPPINE Philharmonic Orchestra (PPO) greeted Mandaluyong residents with a symphonic sound in the PPO's concert of its current season early this month.

The program primarily gave a Manila premiere to contemporary works by Eastern and American composers. Together with the other pieces, the program was filled to round the contemporary side.

All this made for an exciting, enjoyable evening—and a different musical experience. Surely did a local audience have the opportunity to listen to contemporary music. It is about time they get exposed to this kind of music.

But if attendance was used to gauge acceptance of this genre, the music viewers were sadly staggered. But, in general, one listeners still preferred "traditional" music of the classical and romantic styles.

The concert opened with the work of Yuichi Kang (b. 1934), a respected, active contemporary composer of Korea. A compact work of three movements, "Dolbu for Orchestra" is rooted in the postmodern idiom, with traditional Korean music expertly borne in contemporary style.

A celebratory mood was evoked by the warm sound of percussion instruments. The work's middle movement is tender and showing was expressively asserted so. The ambience was truly Asian: light, horizontal and straightforward. Composer Kang received an ovation. Soprano Camille acknowledged him and it seem applause from the audience.

Josef Suk's "Fairy Tale Suite" was well-received. Judging from the hearty applause at the end. The audience enjoyed the work. It is clear to the romantic nature of the ballet music.

Conductor Castillo introduced it by way of annotation. Just before the last piece was played, after the elegant sonatas of the third piece, he informed the audience that the first piece originally brought back some from the love theme.

Indeed, the music was beguiling, and the conditions was seamlessly done, including the solo violin passages played by concertmaster Bernard Buiza Jr.

Aaron Copland's "Appalachian Spring," another suite, was rendered quite handsomely it was light but heavy listening, enjoyable to the core as the orchestra played inspiringly.

Guy had a grand moment rekindling the thrilling ensemble playing. The clarinet masterly mastered the "Shaker Hymn," and the orchestra that followed were simply dazzling.

The most exciting moments for listening came with John Adams' piano concerto, "Century Rolls." Guillaume-based pianist Alexis Chaves was soloist. Bill Dewitt, her husband, a double-bassist, played with the orchestra.

Chaves was in close rapport with Castillo. The rendition was truly marvelous. Chaves took her fingers into the keyboard, repeating some notes in a time-honored way that, at the same of the composer himself, called on forward in exciting rhythmic flow with biting brassiness, and jerky jazzy pulsations, and catchy bebop syncopation was rendered as it-cool.

Truly, one enjoyed feeling the beat. And, indeed, there was as much as urges in a very relaxed manner in this concert, thanks to the innovative zeal of programming of Castillo. Definitely, he knows the maestro's repertoire needs.

John Adams is a teacher of composition at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. He is the most frequently played among living contemporary American composers.

At the Little Theater the following evening, Chaves showed her artistic bent bound of pianism in a solo recital that closed the 85th anniversary celebration of Marian Lapuz's Gang Tolo Foundation.

Her rendition of Mussorgsky's "Pictures at an Exhibition" was elementary. She etched the "Promenade" in varying tempi as the music progressed, unhesitatingly bringing out the essence of each picture being musically depicted.

Guessing pleasure intensified from the "Catacombae" until the end. It was a play she was playing out on a grand piano but set a dull sounding upright.

She struck both notes in an entertaining, rhythmic drive in "The Hut on Chicken's Legs" and did "The Great Gate of Kiev" with keen incisiveness and solid flourish.

Completing the savory program were Gruenwe's Sonata No. 3, Op. 22, Debussy's "Images (First Set)," Liszt's Sonetto 104 del Petrarca, and Moszkowski "Moderato."

Pil-Am pianist in town

Meanwhile, Lloyd Pagsisi Arreola, the son of Filipino immigrants in California and a holder of a doctorate degree from Juilliard School of Music, will give concert piano recital at the University of Santo Tomas Conservatory of Music on Jan. 30 at 5 p.m.

He's going to play Beethoven's Piano Sonata No. 25, Op. 106, Schubert Sonata No. 19, Op. 120, Schubert Impromptu No. 3, Op. 90, Schubert Impromptu No. 4, Op. 90, Schubert Impromptu No. 1, Op. 142, Schubert Impromptu No. 2, Op. 142, Schubert Impromptu No. 3, Op. 142, Schubert Impromptu No. 4, Op. 142, Schubert Impromptu No. 5, Op. 142, Schubert Impromptu No. 6, Op. 142, Schubert Impromptu No.